

## media times

Raymond Snoddy  
on the British film chief  
who is taking on  
the world  
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## ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

Complete  
summer  
fixtures  
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TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

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FFION  
SAVE THE  
TORIES?

PLUS: OUR NEW COMIC M@g

SHERYL  
CROW

Why I can't make  
love work



'Jowell opposes tobacco decision'

# MPs attack Blair over Formula One

By JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR came under renewed pressure over the Formula One affair yesterday as two Commons committees strongly criticised his decision to exempt motor racing from the tobacco sponsorship ban.

The Commons Health and European Legislation Committees rushed out reports seriously questioning the Prime Minister's justification for the special treatment for Formula One.

The reports from the two committees, both heavily Labour dominated, mark the first time that the Government has faced criticism by a select committee.

The Health Select Committee vehemently opposed the Prime Minister's decision to make Formula One a special case and recommended that it should have to find alternative sponsors, like other sports.

In a move which will infuriate Downing Street, David Hinchcliffe, the Labour committee chairman, suggested that Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, who has been cross-examined by both committees, did not support the decision taken by Mr Blair to seek a permanent exemption for Formula One, and was overruled. In a one-page report, produced within hours of Ms Jowell's appearance, the committee said: "We are particularly concerned at the Government's proposal to seek an EC directive which contains provision for a permanent exemption for Formula One."

## Secret fund for Beckett office

Margaret Beckett is receiving financial assistance from a blind trust set up before the election, despite a pledge by the Labour leadership to publicise all its donors. The President of the Board of Trade is using the confidential source of money to help to run her constituency office, which is managed by her husband.

We believe that Formula One should be placed under the same pressure as other sports to seek alternative sponsorship.

Mr Hinchcliffe later said that Ms Jowell had campaigned passionately to remove tobacco advertising sponsorship and had argued the case when she was a member of the committee. "I believe that she's in a situation she doesn't believe in herself... I believe that the decision is something that she wouldn't personally support if she hadn't been landed in this position," Mr Hinchcliffe said. The Committee on European Legislation said exemption for Formula One "deserves closer examination". The report questions the Government's assertion that 50,000 jobs would be lost if Formula One was forced out of Europe. It says it would be nearer 8,000.

"We find that the most difficult question to answer is simply this: why should Formula One be singled out for

an exemption?"

Last night the Prime Minister's spokesman said that the aim was to get a European directive on tobacco sponsorship agreed. "The approach, the policy objective has always been the same: to get a ban on tobacco on tobacco advertising and sponsorship," he said. The Government hit trouble on a second front yesterday when it emerged that 120 MPs have written a private letter to Gordon Brown opposing his decision to cut lone parent benefits by up to £11 a week and urging him to rethink. But the Prime Minister's spokesman insisted that there would be no bowing to pressure on the issue. "The Government has got to govern and take decisions that all sorts of people might not like from time to time," he said.

The private letter to Gordon Brown, said to be signed by 120 MPs, argues that the policy should be shelved until the government has had time to assess its welfare to work programme, encourage lone parents to get jobs. MPs privately argue that it should be delayed for six or 12 months. The letter which is believed to have been signed by some principal private secretaries (who are not allowed to publicly oppose government policy) was sent after Mr Brown's announcement on childcare on Tuesday.

The backbenchers have made clear that the out-of-school childcare package will do little to help lone parents with under school age children or those who do not want to work.

## Spencer goes on the attack

Earl Spencer went on the offensive yesterday by revealing the size of the divorce deal he has offered his estranged wife, Victoria, and encouraging his closest friends to defend his reputation.

David Horton-Fawkes dismissed allegations that the earl had had a dozen affairs as "malicious".

## Hunting backers gather for vigil

Hunting supporters began a 24-hour vigil outside Westminster as MPs prepared today to a backbench Bill to outlaw fox-hunting. Michael Foster's Bill is highly unlikely to become law. The Government again insisted that it would not provide extra time.

## Minimum wage deal offered

The Government yesterday offered for the first time in Britain to all employees an entitlement to be paid not less than a legal minimum wage rate. Ministers proclaimed that they were delivering on one of Labour's key election pledges as they launched the legislation.

## 'Sink Britannia' says Princess

The Princess Royal's appeal for Britannia to be scuttled and not preserved as a tourist attraction has left the Government - which had decided scrapping the yacht would cause public outrage - in a dilemma. The Princess has said that she fears the yacht would not be maintained properly in private hands.



Paula Yates with her daughter Heavenly Hiraani arriving at the cathedral yesterday

# Tears and rock music at Hutchence funeral

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A DISTRAUGHT Paula Yates said goodbye to her partner, Michael Hutchence, at a moving and sombre but colourful funeral in Sydney yesterday. Friends had to support Ms Yates as she entered St Andrew's Cathedral for the hour-long service for her rock star lover, who was found hanged aged 37 in his hotel suite at the weekend.

Ms Yates cradled their 16-month-old daughter, Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, as she sat in the front pew. Occasionally the service became too much for her and she had to be comforted. She did not wear the wedding dress bought for her planned marriage to Hutchence - which she had said she would dye black for the funeral. Instead she wore a sleeveless, knee-length, white-floral-patterned black dress.

Thousands of fans stood outside the cathedral as the singer's coffin, adorned with a single yellow tiger lily and 500 blue irises, arrived.

About 1,200 mourners had seats in the cathedral, among them 200 invited guests, members of Mr Hutchence's family, friends and his band, INXS.

The mourners included Tom Jones, the singer, Kylie

Minogue, the former soap star turned singer, who had an affair with Mr Hutchence several years ago, and one of his more recent girlfriends, Helena Christensen, the model.

At one stage a man jumped up from his seat on the balcony and shouted expletives. "He was going to do a swan dive," said a police officer who managed to restrain the man.

The eulogies included one from Andrew Farriss, a fellow INXS member, who urged fans not to copy Mr Hutchence's death. Australia has one of the worst youth suicide rates in the world.



Hutchence: thousands of fans paid tribute

"We ask the band's fans and those who are touched by his death not to react in any way that would hurt themselves," he said. "Michael would not have wanted that."

In an emotional tribute, Rhett Hutchence said he had visited the hotel room where his brother had died. "I spent some time in his room the other night to see if it had any answers," he said. "It seemed a sad room - it definitely wasn't Michael."

Following the hymn *The Lord's My Shepherd*, the Dean of Sydney told the congregation: "We must thank God for the person whose life we shared and who made memories possible."

The service closed with the coffin being carried out by the surviving members of INXS and Rhett, as the band's song, *Never Tear Us Apart*, resounded through the cathedral. Still clutching her daughter, Ms Yates followed as the family departed for a private cremation ceremony. Minutes later, the last person to see Mr Hutchence alive, the actress Kym Wilson, followed. She spent four hours in the singer's Ritz Carlton suite in the early hours of Saturday.

Final hours, page 5

# Jailed rapist can sue woman who claimed harassment

By TIM JONES, FRANCES GIBB AND JOANNA BALE

A CONVICTED rapist accused of harassing a woman with letters and phone calls from prison was yesterday given permission to sue her for libel for writing to the police about his behaviour.

Lynne Griffiths was said to be "devastated and bewildered" by the decision by the Court of Appeal in which costs were also awarded against her.

David Daniels's earlier attempt to sue her was thrown out in the High Court an abuse of process designed to harass the woman with "no prospect of success".

But yesterday, in a ruling which has far-reaching implications for the legal status of written complaints from the public to the police, the Appeal Court said he had the right to sue.

The ruling is at odds with one from the same court in July which said that witnesses who make statements in connection with possible criminal proceedings are entitled to immunity from any civil action brought on the basis of their statements.

Daniels, 43, was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1983 for one charge of rape and three of attempted rape. For a year he terrorised a district of Swansea and was dubbed the Beast of Mount Pleasant Hill.

Armed with a flick knife, he pounced on girls as they walked up the hill or attacked them after offering them lifts in his car. He threatened to cut the breasts off one girl and stabbed another girl in her thighs.

Mrs Griffiths, a bank clerk, only knew Daniels because he served her while he was employed at a local newsagents close to where she worked. But Daniels began

writing to her as soon as he was jailed claiming they had a relationship which never became physical. He also wrote to her husband asking him to get her to sign an admission to help him gain his release.

Mrs Griffiths complained to the police "in desperation" after receiving numerous letters and telephone calls from Daniels while he was at Gartree prison.

In a statement to the court, she said: "The constant harassment was affecting the health and happiness of my family." In 1994, Daniels's application for release was turned down by the parole board which said his feelings for Mrs Griffiths were "pathological."

He then tried to sue Mrs Griffiths for libel claiming her letter to police had led the parole board to conclude that he was mentally unstable and would be a danger to her if he was released.

Cherie Booth, QC, argued that the letter to South Wales Police was libellous and he should have the chance to sue her and cross-examine her in court so the truth of his claims

Continued on page 2, col 5



Daniels: was sentenced to life in 1983

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If you think this is  
slow you should have  
tried waiting for the  
report from the DTT



# Beware outbreaks of fatal foot-in-mouth disease

IT TAKES an old pro to show how things are done. During exchanges on the single currency, but keen to ask about single mothers, Dennis Skinner reminded MPs that Marks & Spencer was planning to accept payment in euros — "and some of these customers will be single mothers".

The Speaker sighed. "And some single mothers will have less to spend, because..." And he was away. Gordon Brown stonewalled, of course, but Skinner had got it off his chest.

Brown stonewalls well. Alistair Darling, his impressive Chief Secretary, is learning. Darling, who has removed his beard, grows smoother at every session.

But yesterday he slipped. Invited

by the charmingly named Howard Soate (Lab, Darford) to say a few words on the wonderfulness of the Government, Darling thought he heard a Tory jeer. This stung him.

"They scoff," he said, "but the stock market is up, a sign that business has absolute confidence in this Government" (my italics).

Stop! Stock markets can go down. One day this one will. Then enemies will ask whether — since the Chief Secretary stated on November 27, 1997, that a rising market shows business "has absolute confidence" in Government — he now accepts that business has no confidence. Read my lips, Mr D: "A-v-o-i-d h-o-s-t-a-g-e-s t-o f-o-r-t-u-n-e."

I have been making a study of the things politicians wish they never said. Sometimes (as in Mr Darling's case) the mistake lies not in the remark, which may be true, but in the making of it — which may be unwise.

But there is a quite different category of political mis-utterance, a category for which the session which followed later that afternoon looks likely to have yielded a rich harvest. When politicians commit themselves to opinions about technical matters they do not under-

stand, time finds them out. David Clarke made a statement on "Computers (Millennium Compliance)". We gathered this was something to do with the problem of getting computer year-dates to begin with a 2.

This Sketch does not mock. The Midland Bank (quoted yesterday) is doubtless right in giving a warning that one business in five may go bust. But I do not pretend to know. MPs pretend. For the Tories, Cheryl Gillan (Chesham and Amersham) went on so long about

"embedded systems" and "the cap Gemini survey" that Skinner shouted, "Hurry up, the millennium's arrived."

Rhodri Morgan (Lab, Cardiff West) said this was the biggest thing since calendars changed from Julian to Gregorian "in 1720 or whatever". His excitement mounted. "An issue the whole House and whole country needs to be involved in" he cried.

For the Liberal Democrats, Malcolm Bruce was reduced by the importance of it all to stammering "The gap is huge" and predicting a public-spending meltdown.

And they may all be right, of course. But in moments of scepticism, I comfort myself with the words of Prime Minister Asquith

on decimal currency ("You would have a revolution within a week"), those of Mr Scott-Montague, MP, in 1903, on cars ("I do not believe the introduction of motor-cars will ever affect the riding of horses"), Colonel Ashley, MP, Roads Minister, in 1927 ("I do not think it would be practicable to introduce pedestrian crossings in London") and Major Shaw, MP, in 1936 ("I am perfectly convinced the role of the cavalry is as important today as it has been throughout the ages").

Read My Lips, a treasury of things politicians wish they hadn't said, compiled by Matthew Parris and Phil Mason, is published by Penguin today.



MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Leading Unionist shot in the head

A leading unionist was shot and critically wounded in north Belfast last night, the victim of what appeared to be an internal loyalist dispute. The man, named as Jackie Mahood, was shot in the head by two masked gunmen in the Crumlin Road.

The shooting came as Northern Ireland's Unionists prepared for a conference at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire today aimed at uniting David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and the Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties.

### Opera post

The Royal Opera House yesterday appointed Judy Graham to sort out its troubled image. For the past two years she has been marketing manager of the BBC Proms and helped the London Philharmonic Orchestra to win its residency at the Festival Hall.

### Au pair refusal

Louise Woodward, who was convicted of the manslaughter of a baby in her care, said she has "no intention" of selling her story. In a statement released in Boston, where she is living pending her appeal, Miss Woodward said: "We have turned down six-figure offers."

### On-line lottery

An on-line computer lottery with 50 draws a day and a maximum jackpot of £25,000 was launched. Tickets for Pronto, sold initially in pubs and clubs, will cost £1 each with 20p going to charity. But the Government believes it will encourage addictive gambling.

### Forensic tests

Police searching for Gracia Morton, 40, who disappeared in west London two weeks ago, have asked forensic scientists to examine certain items. Scotland Yard refused to comment on a report that these include a page from a shooting atlas with a bloodstained palm print.

### Driving purge

The Government yesterday signalled a fresh assault on drink-driving by announcing moves to target serious and persistent offenders. Proposals to reduce the drink-drive limit will also be included in a government consultation exercise on cutting drink-drive deaths.

### Falkland link

Falkland Islanders will be getting their first live television service from Britain for Christmas. A 24-hour satellite link is due to begin on Monday, carrying programmes from the BBC and ITV, and live football matches from Sky.

### Santa's surprise

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### Farson dies



Dan Farson, above, the writer, photographer and drinker, died aged 70 in a Devon hospital yesterday after a long battle against cancer of the pancreas. Farson found fame as a raconteur on London's Soho pub scene and was a drinking partner of the late Jeffrey Bernard.

### Stewart sacked

Rod Stewart, the rock singer, has been sacked as patron of a Royal British Legion club in Muswell Hill, North London, because he donated only £100 in his four years in the position. The club had hoped he would be a major fundraiser for their cause.

# Beckett's office 'gets thousands from secret trust'

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET BECKETT is receiving financial assistance from a blind trust set up before the election, despite a pledge by the Labour leadership to publicise the names of all its donors.

The President of the Board of Trade is using the confidential source of money to help to run her constituency office, which is managed by her husband, Leo, in the Commons.

The revelation that a senior Cabinet minister has maintained a trust fund, which was set up when she was in Opposition, will be seized on by Tory MPs to try to revive the charge of Labour sleaze. They will today press Mrs Beckett to name the donors or close the trust.

Only yesterday Sir Patrick Neill, QC, who replaced Lord Nolan as the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, confirmed that his inquiry into fundraising would investigate blind trusts.

Two Labour MPs and two other individuals are the anonymous trustees of the Margaret Beckett Research and Administration Trust, which channels thousands of

pounds each year into her office. The trust is registered in the latest Commons register of MPs' interests.

Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and John Prescott, who operated trusts before the election to run their offices, wound them up on May 1. The organiser of Mr Blair's blind trust, Michael Levy, was given a life peerage after the election. The Labour leader has committed the party to publicising the names of all its donors who give more than £5,000.

The money raised by Mrs Beckett's trustees is channelled through the Commons fees office to pay the salary of a researcher in her Commons office. Although the trustees of Mr Blair's blind trust, which was thought to have raised at least £500,000 a year, were publicised, the trustees behind Mrs Beckett's fund have not been made public.

Mr Beckett said: "They would prefer to retain their confidentiality. They do not want to be in the public eye. We are happy to respect that." Mr Beckett denied that he and his wife were in breach of any rules, and said that they had obtained clearance from the

Nolan committee. Although Mr Beckett said that he did not name the donors, he said that they were not suitable to be compared to Bernie Ecclestone, the head of Formula One, who gave the Labour Party £1 million. "They are not in that class," he said.

Mrs Beckett, once regarded as a left-wing firebrand, has the use of a grace-and-favour apartment in Admiralty Arch in London as President of the Board of Trade. Cabinet ministers earn an annual salary of £87,851 and receive an office allowance of £47,568.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, investigated Mr Blair's blind trust and found no evidence of any wrongdoing. The trusts are regarded as a legitimate device for politicians to raise finance as they cannot be accused of responding to donations if they do not know who provided the finance. But Sir Gordon was known to be unhappy about the arrangement. Members of the new Neill committee are in favour of maximum disclosure, including the names of the trustees.



Margaret Beckett with her husband, Leo. He declined to name the donors

## Blair ends 100 years of lobby secrecy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR brought 100 years of official secrecy surrounding relations between Downing Street and the press to an end yesterday by announcing that, from now on, his official spokesman would go "on the record".

Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, took a microphone and tape-recorder to the meeting of the Lobby, the 120-strong group of accredited political correspondents, which has been in operation at Westminster since 1884. There have been regular briefings for more than 60 years, almost always unattributable.

A 30-minute gathering which has often been shrouded in a rather spurious mystery was recorded for the first time.

Mr Campbell will be known as the Prime Minister's official spokesman. The hope is that his words will have added authority through being an on-the-record representation of Mr Blair's position, and that the credibility of anonymous sources giving a conflicting view of the government line will be diminished.

Mr Campbell will not be named because, he said, such a move would be to build up an untested official into a figure in his own right.

Peter Riddell, page 13

# Royal finances open to public scrutiny

BY NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen's finances are to be opened to public scrutiny for the first time in a move by the Commons public spending watchdog to enhance efforts to modernise the monarchy.

Under the radical reform plan nearly £30 million of taxpayers' money that finances the Royal Household will be open for inspection by the National Audit Office, which reports to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

It means that MPs will be able to question Palace officials on their expenditure and issue critical reports if they decide that money is being spent unwisely. Government departments have been wary of the committee's stringent powers since the PAC was set up by Gladstone in 1861 when he was Chancellor.

Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is to discuss the plan with David Davis, the new Conservative chairman of the PAC. The Government and all the main parties appear to be in sympathy.

Mr Davis, Minister for Europe in the last government, launched the initiative within weeks of taking over

his new job. The grants that will come under scrutiny are the £8.9 million annual Civil List, which finances the working expenses of the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The Queen receives £7.9 million a year and the Duke and the Queen Mother receive £500,000 each. Other grants are £20.4 million for the royal residences and £19.5 million for the Queen's transport. The grants will be scrutinised by

Queen's message... 10

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General.

A senior ministerial source said last night that the Government was committed to greater transparency in public finances. The source pointed out that the Government had recently removed the "not for NAO eyes" stipulation that barred the Audit Office from examining key areas of public finance.

Mr Davis admitted that the plan would be controversial, but he said it was in the interests of the Queen for her

finances to be scrutinised. He said: "The Royal Family is making great efforts to increase transparency and openness in its affairs. Those efforts will strengthen public support for the monarchy and we can all applaud them. Our proposals go entirely with the grain of those efforts." He made clear that the Queen's own finances should remain private.

The reform comes amid a determined effort by the Palace to be more open about the Queen's finances. The grants for travel and royal residences are audited by Palace accountants who publish a report. The Palace does not publish details of the Civil List because that is a matter for the Treasury. It is understood that the Queen is making savings that will be declared.

Mr Davis's proposals have won strong support from across the political spectrum. Robert MacLennan, a Liberal Democrat member of the finance committee, hailed the reforms as an important modernising step. He said: "Wherever public money goes the NAO ought to have the right to follow it."

## Rapist allowed to sue

Continued from page 1

could be tested to "convince the prison authorities he is not mad."

Ms Booth said: "He has always maintained there was no physical relationship but there was a strong affection between them which she could not acknowledge. He believes that that was what led him to commit the offence and to being misunderstood by the psychiatrists."

Christopher Vosper, representing Mrs Griffiths, told the Appeal Court that Daniel's attempt to launch legal action was a "manifestation of his obsession" and he was trying to use the courts as a way of seeing her and being in the same room as her.

Sir Brian Neill, giving the lead ruling, said that unless he

can establish the true position through a libel action, he "has no prospect of correcting this misconception and therefore no realistic prospect of obtaining parole."

The judges said immunity for civil actions against complaints to the police did not extend to all the statements made by the woman when complaining about the man, only to those relating to a possible offence. While the woman's statement alleging harassment were protected under the immunity, her complaints went wider, the judges said.

Their ruling means that in future, statements made by witnesses to the police will not automatically be protected by a legal immunity.

Mrs Griffiths's solicitor,

Tim Rees, said: "This is a very fine line. It is going to be very difficult for people to help the police to know where they stand."

"The Court of Appeal has sought to limit the extent of the immunity and said that there may be statements made by my client in a separate context — in this case to help the Parole Board — and that such statements are not immune."

Because Daniels won yesterday's appeal against an order that his claim was an abuse of process of the courts, the three judges had to allow him his costs against Mrs Griffiths.

Mrs Griffiths's lawyer, Ann Morgan, of Douglas-Jones Mercer in Swansea, said: "My client is devastated and bewildered."

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# Earl's boyhood friend attacks 'malicious' case

FROM INIGO GILMORE AND CHRIS LOGAN IN CAPE TOWN

**WOUNDED** by accusations of adultery and cruelty, Earl Spencer went on the offensive yesterday by revealing the size of the divorce deal he has offered his estranged wife, Victoria, and encouraging his closest friend to defend his reputation.

On the steps of the Cape Town court David Horton-Fawkes dismissed allegations that the earl had had a dozen affairs as "malicious".

Mr Horton-Fawkes, who was described as a friend of the earl since childhood and manager of the Althorp estate, was careful not to blame Countess Spencer for the divorce. He suggested that she

had been influenced by one of Lord Spencer's former lovers, Chantal Collopy, a fashion designer who is named in the divorce petition but is giving evidence for Lady Spencer.

"I cannot believe that Victoria herself, whom I have known and liked since she married Charles, would deliberately stoop to this level," he said reading from his prepared statement. He blamed Mrs Collopy who, he said, "appeared determined to become the next Countess Spencer".

Mr Horton-Fawkes, who went to Eton with the earl, has sat with him during four days of the past week of accusations. He suggested that she

Lady Spencer's fight for a better financial deal by having the divorce settled in England, was determined "to bring Charles down".

It was also announced that the earl's expensive legal team was surprisingly dropping attempts to prevent South African newspapers from covering in detail the allegations made against him in court.

Lord Spencer claimed that it was not only against South African law but it was also harming his children. Officially the earl said last night he did not want his divorce to become "a constitutional football".

He insisted he did not dictate what his friend said outside the court. His spokesman said "he knew David wanted to defend his name but he had no idea what he was going to say".



Countess Spencer outside the court yesterday. She said she was in good spirits

**THE OFFER**

Earl Spencer has offered his estranged wife a £310,000 lump sum, plus £2,500 maintenance a month for the rest of her life or until she remarries. Countess Spencer would be given the Silverhurst estate house - worth nearly £300,000 - where she lives in Cape Town with their four children. She would also get the contents of the house and a Mercedes. Lord Spencer would also pay for her

private medical insurance. There would be provision for anything that the children needed, including clothes, equipment, education and all health matters, but the deal would be reassessed if she returned to Britain. Lord Spencer's barrister, Leslie Weinkove, said outside the court that maintenance of £2,500 a month would give Lady Spencer a higher income than that of a judge in South Africa.

lovingly and touchingly thanked him for his tolerance and support". He added that "Charles would never treat the mother of his four children in a mean or malicious manner."

Her welfare and that of his children has always been his utmost concern and will continue to be so, I believe Victoria knows this, but her advisers don't.

Friends of the earl have been increasingly concerned

at the ferocity of the allegations against him during four days of evidence. They had expected the case to be about whether the divorce should be heard in London or South Africa.

Yesterday as he sat in court in his now trademark black suit, the earl looked pensive and morose. By contrast his wife, in a long black dress, chatted and joked with her legal team and her father who

sat behind her. When asked by one of her legal team if she was in good spirits, Lady Spencer, who is asking for a settlement of £3.75 million, replied confidently: "Yes".

Mrs Collopy refused to comment last night.

Jeremy Gauntlett, Lady Spencer's barrister, said Mr Horton-Fawkes' statement "would be answered in court". Both women are expected to give evidence next week.

## Man who fought shy of media braves the limelight

THE appearance of Earl Spencer's "closest and oldest friend" on the steps of the Supreme Court in Cape Town came as a surprise yesterday.

David Horton-Fawkes was at Eton with the earl, and contemporaries remember them as inseparable. The earl asked him to be best man at his wedding, but he declined, saying he was afraid of media intrusion. At Althorp he is described as estate manager.

He said yesterday: "I have known Charles Spencer for 20 years and helped look after his interests in England for the past three years. I have spent many happy days at Althorp as a guest of 'Charles' and 'Victoria'. I am godfather to one of their children. I am so

incensed by the lies we have been forced to read that I am prepared to endure any exposure in order to set the record straight and speak out independently."

"I first moved to the Althorp estate in England on April 1, 1995, shortly after the break-up of his marriage. Until now I have admired the way in which Charles and Victoria have managed to maintain a civil and friendly relationship."

"I would be prepared to remain quiet, had it not become abundantly clear that Victoria has been persuaded or advised to use this public forum and the protection of open court to make allegations against Charles. I cannot believe that Victoria herself would deliberately

stoop to this level. She has been befriended by Chantal Collopy, who, when I met her in England, appeared determined to become the next Countess Spencer."

"Sensational allegations have been made against my friend, under the privilege of court, which documents sworn as true by Victoria, emphatically contradict."

"I was living at Althorp [when] Charles was looking after his four children single-handedly, when allegedly these dozen women were supposed to have been cavorting with him - I am utterly amazed by these allegations. I know that Charles would never treat the mother of his children in a mean or malicious manner."



Earl Spencer and Mr Horton-Fawkes yesterday

## Neighbour sent phone tapes of affair to jilted wife

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PENSIONERS' love affair was exposed when calls from the husband of a Women's Institute chairman to his mistress over a cordless telephone were picked up by a neighbour's radio.

According to Yvonne Davison, her 72-year-old neighbour in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, Vernon Pearson, made tape recordings of her conversations with Bill Lichfield, 67. The recordings were sent to Mr Lichfield's wife, Doreen, chairman of the Women's Institute in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire.

The first the lovers knew of their conversations being recorded was when Mrs Lichfield began divorce proceedings and information from the tapes was used in court. Police arrested Mr Pearson and confiscated 84 tapes and transcripts, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided to take no further action.

Last night Mrs Davison, 60, a medical receptionist whose husband died six years ago, said she and Mr Lichfield began to suspect someone was eavesdropping as soon as legal proceedings began. "Doreen always seemed to be one step ahead of us and seemed to know our movements," she said.

"Every time we went to court she was prepared for everything that could be thrown at her and was armed with evidence. They had a carrier bag of tapes with them on one occasion."

She said she was shocked when Police told her Mr Pearson had been taping the calls. "I thought that all the time he lived here he was the friend from next door, but he was actually the spy from next door."

Mr Pearson said: "I don't deny that I taped Mrs Davison's calls. It was done under very special circumstances. I'm not worried about this at all, I haven't done anything wrong."

Mr Pearson learnt the Lichfields' address when they sent flowers on the death of Mrs Davison's husband.

## Bounties 'may help recover stolen millions'

By STEWART TENDLER

FINANCIAL "bounty hunters" from the City should be recruited to trace millions of pounds hidden away by sophisticated criminals, a leading policeman said yesterday.

Auditors and accountants would be paid initially to start investigations but would take a percentage of what they recovered, making the scheme self-financing.

Sir Geoffrey Dear, an Inspector of Constabulary and former Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said in a report on the National Criminal Intelligence Service that police forces currently used teams of detectives to trace assets, but the work was slow and often unproductive.

Sir Geoffrey said that action must be taken to strip major criminals of their money or they could become untouchable. He also called for laws modelled on American anti-Mafia and Irish gang-busting legislation which would allow the seizure of cash or property.

Sir Geoffrey described some of the underworld's multimillionaires investigated by NCIS. One, known as "A", is thought to be Curtis Warren, the former Liverpool drug trafficker, who was worth more than £80 million when he was caught.

"He built up a £400 million empire through investing stolen property in legitimate property deals and moving into the international underworld."

Sir Geoffrey said modern criminals were using the latest technology, the Internet, encryption of messages and electronic transfer of funds and "all other accessible means to protect their gains". The global market had an underworld "mirror" image and British criminals were laundering their assets into legal commercial ventures and firms abroad.

## RAF officer says sex with Serbian interpreter was a disaster

By MICHAEL HORSNELL



Tucker: new partner

THE RAF officer accused of murdering his wife for the love of a Serbian translator said yesterday that the liaison was "a bit of a sexual disaster".

Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker, 46, admitted a short-lived affair but told the jury that he had not killed his wife.

He announced his intention to remarry if acquitted, but the judge at Norwich Crown Court declined his offer to write down the name of his new partner. During two hours

in the witness box, the officer, who met Djana Dudokovic, 21, while serving in Bosnia as a United Nations military observer, said: "She was very flirtatious, fascinating to be with, very vivacious, and a very good interpreter. I became friendly with her. We were just very good friends."

A sexual relationship developed only when he arranged to bring her on leave to England five months later. They stayed at the RAF Club in Piccadilly before touring the New Forest and the South Coast. Only

twice had they made love, near the end of their secret week together. "It was while we were staying in Southampton," he said. "It was a bit of a disaster, to put it bluntly. I couldn't hack it."

"After that, it was the wrong time of the month for her. I never had sexual intercourse with her on any other occasion." After the couple had returned independently to Yugoslavia, the relationship had reverted to a friendship.

Mr Tucker denies murdering his wife in 1995, when he is alleged to

have staged a crash. Their car plunged into the River Lark, Southampton, as they returned from a pub meal. Carol Tucker, 52, was found drowned under a bridge. The prosecution says that her husband had first asphyxiated her.

Mr Tucker said that he had few recollections of the accident, which was "over in a flash of a second". He said: "We were chatting. Carol shouted something to the effect, 'Mind the deer', which we saw in the road momentarily before me. I honestly don't know how fast I was

going, it would have been higher than 30mph."

"Her arm moved, and my recollection is she grabbed the steering wheel. I say that because the movement to the left was more than me steering. At that point, I saw two animals in the road. My immediate thought was that they were dogs. Perhaps the size of labradors."

He retained three pictures in his memory: the animals, the reflection of headlights shining on weeds on the riverbank and water cascading down the windscreen. Mr Tucker

said he telephoned Ms Dudokovic in Switzerland, where she now lives with her husband, two days after the accident to tell her of his wife's death.

"Her immediate reaction was she thought I was playing some kind of sick joke, but then she was utterly dumbfounded and shocked". He agreed he made several phone calls to her, partly because of concern over events in Yugoslavia. He continued to telephone her as a friend.

The trial continues today.

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'He didn't try to hide away at all. He was very, very open and relaxed and natural'



Among mourners at the Sydney funeral yesterday were Kylie Minogue, second from left, and Sophie Lee, an actress, second from right. Kym Wilson, right, the actress who was one of the last people to see Hutchence alive, was also present

## Last acts of a rock tragedy

By ROGER MAYNARD  
IN SYDNEY

IN THE rich history of rock star tragedies, Michael Hutchence's sudden death fits a pattern that will ensure his place in the music industry's hall of fame for years to come. In an industry where premature death is a prerequisite for heroism, he has already gained a degree of immortality.

While there are still many unanswered questions about the events surrounding the singer's final hours, police have pieced together a remarkably detailed picture of what happened before and after his tragic end.

At 6.30pm on Friday, Michael's father Kell Hutchence reserved a table at the 'Faste of India' restaurant in Sydney for a family dinner. They arrived together at 7.45pm, usually

dressed and smiling and took a window table. Ashley, Totani, the manager, said: "Usually with these kind of people, the big stars, they like to sit with their backs to the room. He didn't. He sat looking into the restaurant. He didn't try to hide away at all. He was very, very open and relaxed and natural."

Michael did not eat much and at one stage in the evening his father appeared to show some concern. He put his hand on that of his son and remarked: "I'm very worried about you Michael. Is everything all right?" Michael replied: "Dad, I'm fine."

Kell drove his son back to the Ritz Carlton Hotel at about 11pm. At about 11.10pm Hutchence went into a bar at the hotel, which is in the exclusive Sydney harbour-side suburb of Double Bay. He had a drink with some friends

and applauded the female singer. Just before midnight, Hutchence and Kym Wilson, the Australian actress, took the lift to the rock star's fifth floor suite. She was not spotted again until she left at 4am. For the next five hours, hotel records show that Hutchence made several telephone calls from his hotel room. He is believed to have spoken to Paula Yates and Bob Geldof.

At 7am on Saturday he telephoned a friend, Michelle Bennet, and arranged to meet her for breakfast. She was asleep in bed so he left a message on her answering machine that said: "It's seven o'clock. I need to talk to you. Goodnight." Michelle arrived at the Ritz Carlton just before 10am but failed to get an answer from his room. She arranged for a note to be slid under his door and left.

At 11.55am a maid used her pass key

to enter Hutchence's suite. Inside she found his body hanging from a leather belt attached to a spring door hinge.

Shortly after noon on Saturday police and ambulance officers arrived and declared Michael Hutchence dead. There were empty beer bottles, cocktail glasses and a bottle of French Champagne in the room. Police sources said the bed had been stripped back and there was evidence of sexual activity having taken place, but they could not say when.

It was some days before Kym Wilson gave a statement to police, but she told friends that Michael appeared to have been in a very positive mood and gave no indication of wanting to take his life.

A post mortem examination revealed that Hutchence had hanged himself, but there were no suspicious circumstances.



Relatives and members of Hutchence's band, INXS, bearing his coffin away

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# Hunt lobby attacks 'emotional blackmail'

Supporters of hunting gathered for a last blast of defiance before MPs cast their votes in the Commons today, reports Michael Hornsby

PRO-HUNT campaigners accused their opponents of "emotional blackmail" yesterday as they faced the prospect of a resounding defeat in today's second reading vote in the Commons on a Private Member's Bill to ban their sport.

They were resigned to a large majority in favour of the Bill, and were relying on the Government to refuse to allocate enough time for the legislation to complete its passage.



Mallalieu said she had never seen such anger

misleading advertisements in what amounts to a campaign of emotional blackmail."

Even if 73 per cent of the population supported a ban, as some polls suggested, that still left 27 per cent who did not. "That is about 15.5 million people, or about two million more than elected the Labour Party at the last election. Some minority," he said.

Baroness Mallalieu, a Labour member of the House of Lords and leader of a small group in the party opposed to a hunting ban, said she had never encountered such anger and determination among country people as had been aroused by the Bill, sponsored by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester. She said: "Millions of people are saying that they do not want to live in a country which is governed by majority dictatorship."

About 150 country sports workers and supporters began a 24-hour vigil yesterday near the House of Commons in protest against the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, which would make hunting fox, deer, hare and mink a criminal offence subject to a maximum fine of £5,000 or imprisonment for up to six months.

Among them was Mark Allen, from Stratford-on-Avon, with his two hunting dogs. He said: "I am just a



Members of seven Leicestershire hunts and supporters gathered in protest at a Countryside Alliance rally at Melton Mowbray yesterday

labourer who earns £60 a day. Hunting is one of the most socially mixed pastimes in the whole of the country and it is outrageous that it is a socialist Government that is trying to ban hunting."

In a letter to MPs, the Countryside Alliance said hunting was the best and most humane way of controlling

foxes. "A fox in prime condition is faster and smarter than any foxhound," it said. "The odds are in favour of the fox and most that are hunted survive. Should a fox be caught by hounds, its death is very quick and there is no risk of wounding."

Seven Leicestershire hunts — the Quorn, Cottesmore,

Belvoir, Fernie and Atherstone foxhounds, the Westerby Bassets and the Oakley Foot Beagles — staged a parade on Melton Mowbray aerodrome yesterday in protest against the Bill. The organisers claimed that 4,000 people on foot and 800 horses and riders took part.

Vini Paal, chairman of the

Sharston Terrier and Lurcher Club, told the gathering: "Last week I met an a Welsh examiner who follows hounds. He said to me: 'I never thought I would be arguing with a Labour MP. The Tories took away my living, now the Labour Party want to take away my life.'"

Jim Barrington, a former

executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "A hunting ban will not improve the welfare of a single fox. I would like to see an independent authority set up to supervise and regulate the sport."

Leading article, and Letters, page 23

## Ease your hell, girl's father tells murderer

THE parents of the murdered schoolgirl Kate Bushell yesterday appealed to her killer to give himself up to relieve his "private hell".

Jeremy Bushell, 44, who found his daughter's body in a field near their home, said: "There is a very, very sick person there who is basically living in hell, and his private hell can only be relieved by coming forward."

His daughter, 14, had her throat cut while walking a neighbour's dog in Exeter. Suzanne Bushell said: "She's always going to be with us. We had 14 lovely years with her."

Asked whether he had heard rumours that the lane the girl used was unsafe, Mr Bushell said: "We had not heard anything specific. You cannot live your life in a cocoon. You have got to live it in the world where you are."

Police have received 1,700 calls from the public but have not found the murder knife.

### CORRECTIONS

□ A heading on a report (November 24) did not reflect the views of Martin Kemp, British Academy Wolfson Research Professor. He has called for a debate on the restoration of works of art, not a halt to that work.

□ Scottish Telecom has concluded a joint venture agreement with Martin Dawes Telecommunications Ltd. It has not bought that company, as reported on November 17.

## Europe may catch cold from global warming

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor, and Nick Nuttall

EUROPE should prepare for temperatures to fall to Arctic levels, even though meteorologists have declared 1997 the Earth's hottest year on record, an American scientist says.

Wallace Broecker, of Columbia University in New York, says the effect of global warming on the North Atlantic could disrupt the "motor" that drives ocean circulation. If so, the Gulf Stream would be turned off and winter temperatures in northern Europe would fall by at least 10°C within a decade. Britain would be as cold as Spitzbergen, 600 miles inside the Arctic Circle.

Meteorological Office figures show that this year will be 0.43C warmer than the 30-year average.

Ocean currents, including the Gulf Stream, are driven by a process called the thermohaline circulation. The cold, salty

water of the North Atlantic is the driving force, sinking to the ocean bottom and pushing water through the world's oceans like a huge plunger. The result, as far as northern Europe is concerned, is a huge flow of warmer surface waters, including the Gulf Stream, across the Atlantic. Northern Europe is consequently much warmer than

Forecast 26

corresponding latitudes in North America.

The water of the North Atlantic has about 7 per cent more salt than that of the North Pacific, just sufficient to make it sink. If it were warmed by a few degrees, or made less salty by being diluted by melting ice, that could change.

If it did, Dr Broecker writes

in *Science*, the consequences would be devastating. "Were this to happen a century from now, at a time when we were struggling to produce enough food to nourish the projected population of 12 to 18 billion, it could lead to widespread starvation."

His warnings come as nations are preparing for the UN climate change conference in Kyoto, Japan.

Europe is pressing for a legally binding target of a 15 per cent cut in global warming gases by 2010. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday urged Australia to make a firm commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. He was speaking in Canberra on the final leg of a four-nation tour. John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, last week released a plan to hold the country's greenhouse gas growth to 18 per cent by 2010.

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# Gay prisoners underwent sexual 'cure'

GAY prisoners in the 1950s were given electric shock treatment and oestrogen — a female sex hormone — in an attempt to make them heterosexual.

The effort to alter homosexuality in prison was revealed yesterday in Home Office papers released at the Public Record Office under the 30-year rule. Medical officers tried a number of experiments "to influence homosexual behaviour" and "to abolish the sexual urge".

Some prisoners asked for castration, and in some cases surgery was approved, but the prison officials preferred a combination of therapy and oestrogen. Their view was "castration of body does not mean castration of mind". Forty-three men were given electric shock treatment or aversion therapy. Pictures of a man were flashed on a screen and, if they did not switch it off within eight seconds, they received a shock. Only 36 completed the treatment; the papers said 25 showed "significant improvement".

In an unsigned memorandum

Newly released Home Office papers show inmates were given oestrogen

and electric shocks in an attempt to convert them. Valerie Elliott reports

dum to Rab Butler, then Home Secretary, officials recognised, however, that the treatment was flawed because the majority of gay prisoners — or "inverts", as they were termed — refused treatment and others were serving sentences too short to take any benefit from it.

Butler approved the use of oestrogen in 1958 among prisoners who gave written consent, although it was not regarded as a permanent "cure". It had been forbidden previously because of the risk of making men sterile.

According to the advice "the effect of administration of oestrogen to males is to diminish the effect of the sexual urge, whether its direction is normal or abnormal... but

[it] does not effect a permanent cure".

The Prison Service found that in half those treated the men "were less likely in the future to indulge in homosexual behaviour". But of the 1,065 cases studied, 81 per cent refused treatment and 13 per cent were unsuitable.

The report states that every effort was made to turn the men's thoughts to work and "a healthy life". Gay Borstal boys were treated at Wormwood Scrubs while adult prisoners were treated at Wakefield, Maidstone and Leyhill.

The key condition for treatment was that an individual "must have a sincere wish to be relieved of tension resulting from his sexual deviation". However, prison staff said

"the desire for medical treatment is often expressed but much more rarely sincerely felt".

The report to Butler asserted that, while the idea of converting gay men was attractive, "with perhaps a few exceptions, the possibility of doing so is doubtful".

Butler was also told that gay men in prison for the first time were of superior education and intelligence, while homosexuals found regularly in local prisons were usually recidivists.

The Prison Service admitted that it did not like segregating gay prisoners and accepted that some prison officers were strongly repelled by homosexual inmates and made no effort to conceal their feelings. Prison staff categorised types of homosexual — the male prostitute, the corrupter of youth, the obviously effeminate, the obnoxious and the homosexual "who tries to parade a fancied intellectual superiority to the common herd".

The "passive homo" was regarded as a great nuisance while the male prostitute was "no trouble". "It is the temperamentally female type who is the canker," the paper stated. Some prisons enlisted chaplains to influence behaviour of the gays but the report complained that many were prone to "facile religiosity".

The papers formed part of the debate in government about reforms, proposed by John Wolfenden (later Lord Wolfenden) in a Royal Commission report in 1957, to legalise sex between consenting men aged over 21. However, it was not until 1967, when Roy Jenkins was Home Secretary, that the Sexual Offences Act was passed.

Rab Butler was clearly uncomfortable with the proposed reforms. He wrote to Cabinet colleagues in 1957 that the Wolfenden report "seems to avoid the moral issues".

In 1966, as the legislation was being prepared, Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister, was urged by the National Union of Seamen to maintain a ban on gay sex at sea. Bill Hogarth, the union's general secretary, said he feared parents would not allow their sons to go to sea. "The presence of homosexuals can give rise to serious conflicts and jealousies."

Wilson promised to try to find a way around the law for the seamen.



Lord Alfred Douglas, who wanted to raise money by selling a manuscript

## Minister rejected MPs' plea to help Douglas

THE Home Office refused to help a destitute and sick Lord Alfred Douglas, the former lover of Oscar Wilde, by releasing his prison manuscript of the poem *In Excelsis*.

Douglas (1870-1945) had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in 1921 for a libel against Winston Churchill, suggesting that he had been corrupted by a Jewish financier. He was allowed to continue to write his poetry in prison but, on release, he was refused his notebook.

Douglas hoped to raise money by selling the manuscript to an American collector. The Home Office view was that he had partly repeated the libel in the sonnet which begins "The leprous spawn of scattered Israel spread its contagion in your English blood..."

A powerful group of MPs lobbied the Government to release the notebook and make a special case for such an eminent poet. But in 1942, Sir Alexander Maxwell, then Home Secretary, firmly rejected the pleadings for Douglas, then 72, from Harold Nicolson, Alan Lennox-Boyd, Henry "Chips" Channon.

Osbert Peake, a junior Home Office Minister, advised Sir Alexander: "If Douglas is now in penury his friends should do something for him." Peake was also concerned that release of the notebook would revive stories of Wilde and Douglas.

The Home Secretary agreed and made clear that he would also be criticised for favouring "people of eminence". The MPs were outraged.

## PM freed suffragette who plotted to kill him

The First World War Prime Minister David Lloyd George ordered a woman who had plotted to murder him in 1917 to be freed to prevent a public relations disaster, according to secret government files released yesterday.

Ministers advised him not to release Alice Wheeldon, who was on a hunger strike, but he overruled them, saying it was "undesirable" that she should die in prison. Wheeldon was jailed for ten years after she and her daughter, Winnie, were convicted of the plot to kill the Prime Minister. She was freed from Aylesbury jail later that year because of his direct intervention.

According to the Home Office records, Wheeldon and her two daughters played a part "in the suffragette campaign of arson and sabotage". She was said to be annoyed that the First World War had inter-



Lloyd George he was target of poison plot

— who won Wheeldon's friendship — claimed that she told him he would be a "saviour to his country" by poisoning the Prime Minister, the papers said. She told him that, a couple of years earlier, she had known about a plot to kill Lloyd George, but he had escaped by going to France.

The investigator, known as Number Five, said she had four small test tubes of chemicals delivered so that he could carry out the plot. The reports concluded that there was "ample evidence" that she and others were behind the plot.

After she was jailed her family complained about her treatment, which included her being stripped. She went on hunger strike because she could not face ten years in prison.

Wheeldon died in 1919. Her son, William, covered her coffin with the red flag, according to news reports of the time.

ferred with the campaign for women's suffrage.

Wheeldon had annoyed the authorities by allegedly helping conscientious objectors to avoid active military service. Initial reports stated that the family was "probably a bit crazy", but an undercover investigator

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# Chocolate and chips 'are good for children'

Doctor says diet obsession gives girls anorexia, and a bit of energy would do them good, writes John O'Leary

AN OBSESSION with healthy eating, exercise and vegetarianism is fuelling the growth of anorexia and bulimia among teenage girls, the director of a specialist clinic told headmistresses yesterday.

Dee Dawson, medical director of the Rhodes Farm Clinic in North London, which treats children with eating disorders, said that chips, chocolate and crisps were all sources of energy which parents and schools should welcome. Left to choose their own food, children would arrive at a naturally healthy diet.

Dr Dawson said girls at private schools were more likely to suffer from eating disorders. She told the headmistresses of independent girls' schools that at least 1 to 2 per cent of their pupils were likely to have anorexia nervosa. As many as 5 per cent of sixth formers could be bulimic. Anorexia tended to be obsessive, compulsive perfectionists, who typically had small, neat handwriting and would rip up work until they were satisfied, she said.

In her speech to the Girls' Schools Association in Bristol, Dr Dawson said that a higher percentage of children with eating disorders was found in public schools. This was because perfectionist, high-achieving children of high-flying, equally perfectionist parents were often educated privately.

"Having said that, anorexia nervosa is moving rapidly

down through the social classes and is certainly not confined to prestigious schools", she said. She blamed low-fat diets, modern exercise regimes and the trend towards vegetarianism for many eating disorders. She said that this model had such an impact that half of all six-year-olds were worried about their weight. Only about 4 per cent of schoolchildren were truly overweight. Girls had to be told that it was natural to gain weight around puberty, and any weight loss should be recognised as a cause for concern.

The promotion of low-fat diets was dangerous to potentially anorexic children. "Children do not need to restrict their fat intake - they should drink full-cream milk, there is not one shred of evidence to suggest that what we eat as children has any influence on the later incidence of coronary heart disease. Chocolate, cheese, crisps and chips are wonderful energy-giving foods which children need."

She believed it no coincidence that 80 per cent of her patients were vegetarians. "Children should not depend on beans and nuts for their protein. They need to eat meat." Exercise videos were also damaging: "I would like to shoot Rosemary Conley ... no amount of waving your legs in the air will reduce the amount of fat on your thighs other than its effect in burning

off calories and therefore fat in general."

Dr Dawson said parents should set an example by avoiding constant talk of diet and exercise. Schools could spot potential problems early by weighing children regularly and alerting parents to any weight loss.

Dr Dawson said she feared that the Government would compound the problem by issuing healthy eating guidelines. She claimed that a leaked policy document from the Department of Health considered banning school tuck shops, chips in school canteens and restricting the sale of chocolate. She said: "There is evidence to the contrary, the old adage still holds true: 'A little of what you fancy does you good.'"



Dr Dawson speaking yesterday. She said schools should weigh pupils regularly

# An outspoken debunker of eating myths

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

WHEN Dee Dawson gave up her job as a hospital doctor to have her fifth child, she decided to take two or three anorexic children into her home. Within months, the demand for treatment was such that she had to extend her house and eventually move her family out.

Today, her Rhodes Farm clinic in North London, has 32 beds and is treating anorexic children from all over Britain and further afield. Dr Dawson is also acting as a consultant to several schools and spreading her message of the damage done by food fads.

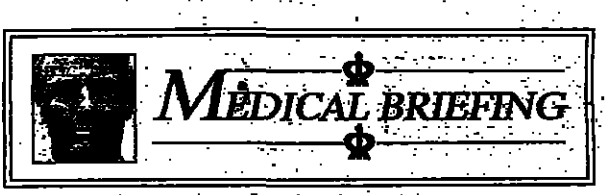
She gained a degree in biochemistry in the 1970s and spent three years researching heart disease before working in Madagascar as a volunteer. She took an MBA at the London Business School and three years later started a fashion company specialising in larger sizes. By 1982, she had sold the business to the Burton Group

and took a degree in medicine, qualifying in 1989. She practised as a part-time GP when she first began specialising in the treatment of eating disorders, but the growth of her clinic soon made this impractical. In recent years, she has become one of the most outspoken critics of the vogue for exercise and supposedly healthy eating.

She told headmistresses yesterday how her six-year-old daughter once brought a note home from her prep school asking parents not to include chocolate biscuits or crisps in lunchboxes because they were "envy-making foods".

Another note prescribed early bedtimes because children were tired in the afternoon. She said: "Could it be, I thought, that they were tired because they were eating celery sticks and carrot instead of a Mars bar, which could indeed have helped them work, rest and play?"

# The answer is to strike a balance



FEW doctors would agree with Dee Dawson in her contention that dietary fat in childhood has no influence on later health.

The evidence from post-mortem examinations on young American servicemen killed in the Korean War showed that, by the early 1950s, the postwar diet, which is unduly reliant upon convenience foods with a high fat content, had increased the amount of atherosclerosis in the coronary arteries and aorta. This evidence of cardiovascular disease showed to a greater extent than before.

There is an implied suggestion in Dr Dawson's remarks that keeping the calorie intake derived from fat low might encourage the children to take less than 10 per cent of the daily energy requirement in fat. Ten per cent is the absolute minimum which is essential

for the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins, healthy cell production and for lubrication to enhance food flavour and to make it easy to swallow.

Anything which gives over-emphasis to the body beautiful, including excessive exercise, can be destructive. Adults who are obsessed about their children's appearance and performance, both physical and mental, are likely also to be interfering, over-intrusive and incapable of allowing their children to develop their independence.

Excessive anxiety about fat is likely to be symptomatic of other, greater, problems in parenthood which will not be eased by encouraging a diet rich in cheese, chips and double cream.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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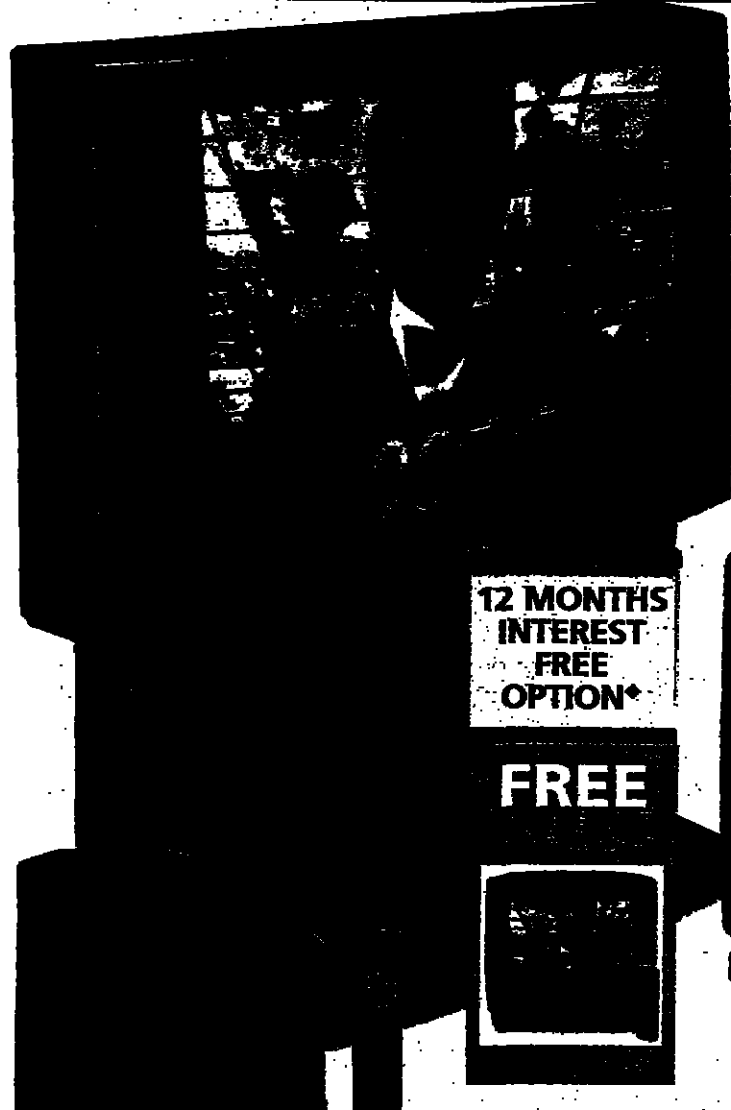
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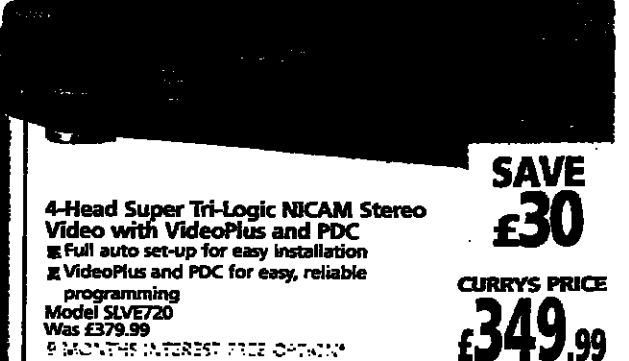
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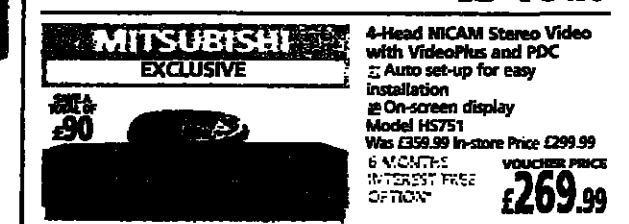
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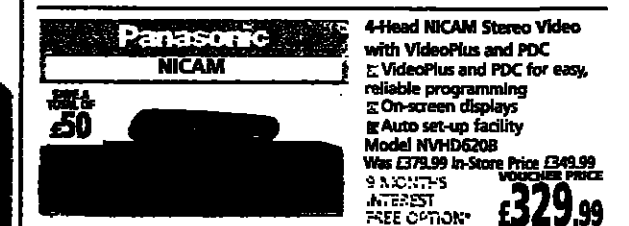
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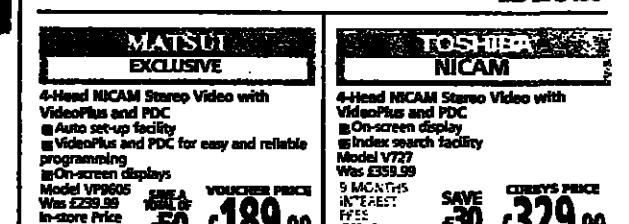
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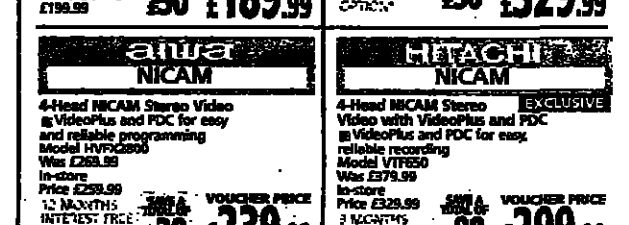
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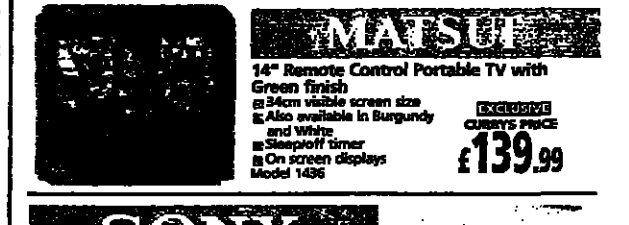
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## 12 POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

# Welsh assembly may spend years in makeshift home

THE new Welsh assembly may have to find a temporary home after the collapse of negotiations over the use of Cardiff City Hall, the Welsh Secretary said yesterday.

Ron Davies suggested that members and staff could find themselves without a permanent home for three or four years after the assembly is set up in May 1999.

The Government offered Cardiff City Council a maximum of £3.5 million to lease City Hall, which was the Welsh Secretary's first choice of location for the assembly. The council's ruling Labour group rejected the offer unanimously, despite the Government's protests that it would have to spend a further £30 million on renovating and refurbishing the building.

Although Mr Davies regretted that the City Hall would not house the Welsh assembly, he said: "It was the preferred option, but not the only option."

The alternatives will be set out in a consultation document to be published in the next ten days. In the short term, they include the old Mid Glamorgan county council hall in Cardiff and the Coal Exchange in Cardiff Bay, which was identified as a possible assembly headquarter.

**Polly Newton on the failure to secure a deal for the use of Cardiff City Hall**

ters in the run-up to the 1979 referendum on Welsh devolution. Both would have to be modified to accommodate the assembly while a long-term home was found — perhaps a new building in Cardiff.

Mr Davies said that he still favoured Cardiff because it was the Welsh capital, but there were other possibilities. Wherever the assembly is sited, it could be connected by video links with "satellite" offices in other cities and towns.

The Government of Wales Bill, which was published yesterday, sets aside £17 million for the establishment of the assembly. Mr Davies said he was confident that it would be enough.

He said that the Bill was a milestone for Wales. "In only 18 months, and for the first time ever, there will be an all-Wales elected government."

Decisions affecting Wales had for too long been taken behind closed doors. "The new national assembly will be modern, open and accountable." He said that neither Westminster nor local government would provide the model. The assembly would make a fresh start based on the best practices from around the world.

The leader of the assembly will be called the First Secretary. He or she will form an executive committee, or Cabinet, whose members — the leaders of various committees — will be known as Secretaries. Their salaries will be set by the Senior Salaries Review Body, which recommends pay rises for MPs and ministers at Westminster.

Mr Davies predicted that the assembly would sit for two or three days a week, and said that he expected all members to be paid for doing full-time jobs. Details of its daily operations, however, are determined by a commission, subject to the agreement of national assembly members.

Over the next 18 months, the Government will try to persuade doubters that the assembly will benefit Wales. In the referendum in September, devolution was backed by a majority of just 6,721, or 0.6



The Coal Exchange, top left, and the Mid Glamorgan county hall are alternatives to the first choice City Hall, below

per cent. Peter Hain, the junior Welsh Office Minister, will co-ordinate a campaign to win over those who voted against.

He said yesterday: "I predict that in ten years' time, you will not be able to identify anybody who would admit to voting 'no' in the referendum,

because it will become such a hugely popular assembly."

The Government for Wales Bill is expected to have its second reading in the Commons in the week beginning December 8. Mr Davies risked the wrath of the Opposition by saying that it was unlikely to be debated in full

on the floor of the House, despite the convention that all MPs are given the chance to scrutinise in detail any legislation with constitutional implications.

Mr Davies said it was "very important" that the key debates were taken on the floor of the House, but said that

would depend on the Conservative Party. "If they are prepared to be co-operative with us I will ensure that the key issues are taken on the floor of the House," he said, but added: "There is a very strong case for much of the detail of the Bill to be taken in committee upstairs."

## Charges for river pollution planned

By Nick Nuttall

COMPANIES discharging poisonous wastes face higher charges under government-backed proposals announced yesterday to improve river quality.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said the health of the nation's rivers had improved markedly between 1990 and 1996. But there were still stretches in England and Wales where pollution made the water unsuitable for recreation or providing drinking supplies.

Under the proposals, factories that discharge into rivers will pay a sliding scale of charges intended to reflect the environmental impact of the wastes. The more toxic and hazardous the discharges, the higher the charge.

"Polluters then have a choice between paying that price or taking action to reduce their pollution. The economic instrument should provide an ongoing incentive for the development of new, more cost-effective, pollution control techniques," a report into the proposals said.

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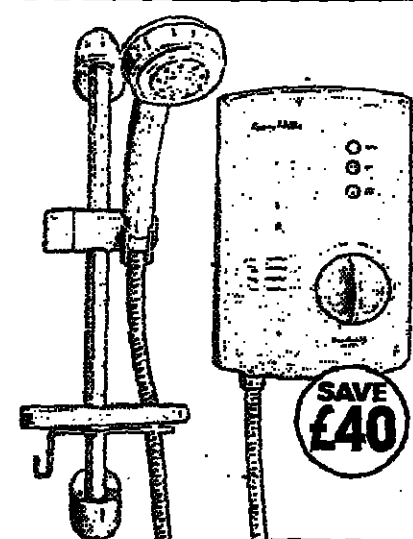
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## Sleaze claims fail to harm Labour

By Peter Riddell

THE Blair Government's "sleazy-clean" image has been unaffected by the row over the Bernie Ecclestone affair. The latest MORI poll for "The Times" shows that more than half the public believe that it has upheld high standards in public life since the election.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, included a number of questions about the public's attitude towards the Government. Hopes are still high, and, despite allegations about Labour "sleaze", the public thinks that the Government has upheld high standards in public life by almost a two-to-one margin.

Moreover, 58 per cent think that the Labour Government is doing about the same as they expected, while 20 per cent believe it is doing better than expected and 16 per cent worse. The middle classes are slightly more positive than the working classes.

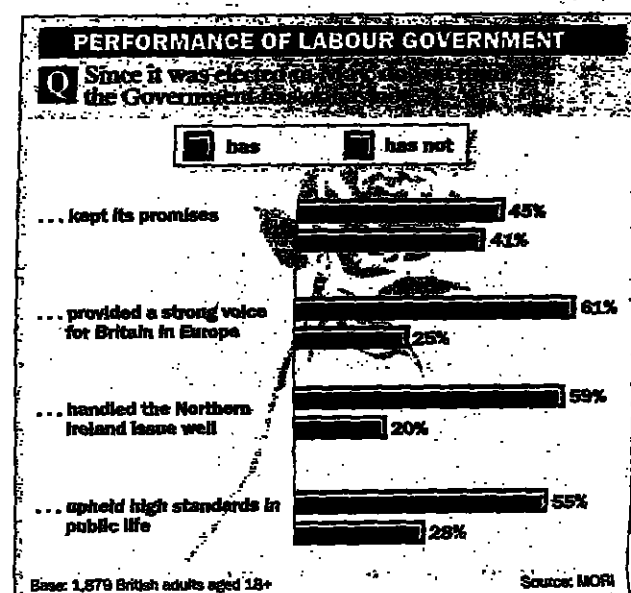
There is a broadly even split over whether the Government has kept its promises. 45 per cent believing it has and 41 per cent has not.

Revealingly, the highest proportion, 24 per cent, saying that the Government has done better than expected, come from Scotland, and the lowest, at 15 per cent, from Wales. Similarly, a much higher proportion in Scotland than Wales (55 to 48 per cent) believe that the Government has kept its promises. This undoubtedly reflects the contrasting attitudes on devolution.

Three quarters say their standard of living has stayed about the same since May, with just 7 per cent saying it has improved and 17 per cent got worse. Complaints about a decline in living standards are well above average, at 23 per cent, among those buying their homes on mortgages who have faced a series of interest rate increases since May. This is also reflected in the 22 per cent of 35 to 54-year-olds reporting worse living standards. By contrast, the figure is just 11 per cent among those who own their homes outright. Those aged between 35 and 54 and those buying homes on a mortgage are also less inclined to think that the Government has kept its promises.

Nonetheless, 56 per cent agree that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy, with 27 per cent disagreeing. This is roughly the same balance as after Gordon Brown's first Budget in July.

The MORI economic opti-



mism index, measuring the proportion believing that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, is still positive, at plus six points, roughly the same as at the end of October. The unemployed are, not surprisingly, more likely than others to say their standard of living has got worse and that the Government has not kept its promises since the election. However, they remain optimistic about the future since

an above average two thirds of them believe that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy.

Three fifths of the public, including two fifths of Tory supporters, believe the Government has provided a strong voice in Europe, with just 25 per cent disagreeing. MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,879 adults at 170 sampling points across Britain from November 21 to 24.

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# Montserrat role 'must be taken off Short'

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLARE SHORT should be stripped of her responsibility for the island of Montserrat after the Government's "dum-sy" response to the volcano crisis, a Commons report concluded yesterday.

The report, by the International Development Committee, said that the Foreign Office should clear up the "mismanagement and confusion" in the running of the island, a dependent territory, by taking control of its multi-million-pound budget.

One source on the committee said: "This report will set the doves of Whitehall fluttering. They're going to resist this like hell. But there's nothing like an emergency to concentrate minds."

Ms Short, the International Development Secretary, infuriated the island's leaders at

said: "The committee was very shaken by the conditions in which the people of Montserrat were forced to live. We found that there are a whole variety of authorities responsible for this condition. The responsibility in British terms lies with the Foreign Office. But the International Development Department cannot escape the blame for some of the chaotic decision-making processes on Montserrat, nor can the elected Government of Montserrat or the Governor. In fact the managerial relationships in Whitehall were very dum-sy indeed."

Although the committee stopped short of blaming Ms Short, it concluded that her department should no longer have any role in Montserrat. Mr Wells said that aid should come from the Treasury's contingency reserve fund, while the Foreign Office should take charge of the island. He insisted that the report's recommendations were not a reflection on the work of Ms Short's department, but simply a recognition that there should be "clearly delineated responsibilities."

He added: "This is a radical report, one born of the tragedy that the volcano is visiting on Montserrat. It illustrates the total inadequacy of the present British arrangements for the administration of the dependent territories."

Mr Wells made clear that Ms Short was not the only minister who should be criticised. He attacked Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the Foreign Office Minister, for failing to keep her promise to the committee to sort out the problems Montserratians experienced at immigration controls on arrival in Britain.

His criticisms, which were also directed at the previous Government, were shared by Labour members of the committee. Ann Clwyd, MP for Cynon Valley, said: "It makes me quite ashamed. These are citizens of a British Dependent Territory who should be given the best treatment."

Ms Short welcomed the report, saying: "Clearly, things needed to improve. The overall responsibility for the island, and the Government and Governor of Montserrat, Bowen Wells, the Tory chairman of the committee,



Short infuriated the island's leaders

the height of the volcano crisis in August when she said that their financial demands were so unreasonable "they will be wanting golden elephants next". The report criticised Ms Short for her remarks but said it welcomed her retraction when she appeared before the committee last month.

The cross-party committee did not blame Ms Short for the "failures and mistakes" in the Government's response to the volcano, which erupted in June, killing 19 people. Instead it said that there were "too many decision-makers" in the process, including Ms Short's department, which is responsible for the distribution of aid, the Foreign Office, which has overall responsibility for the island, and the Government and Governor of Montserrat.

Bowen Wells, the Tory chairman of the committee,

## Whitehall to beat 'millennium bomb'

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

GOVERNMENT departments are likely to beat the "millennium timebomb" that threatens to cause computer chaos at the turn of the century, it was announced yesterday.

David Clark, the Public Services Minister, said that Whitehall departments and agencies were on course with a scheme to make all their computer equipment "millennium compliant". But it does not cover hospitals, health trusts, local authorities or operational military equipment, for which there are separate arrangements.

Most computers store year dates in a two-digit number. Unless they are adapted, many computers will reach 2000, believe that time has travelled back a century to

1900, and shut down in confusion. The danger extends beyond the kind of computer used in offices. Any equipment with time-sensitive chips will be affected, such as timelock safes, automated hospital drips, refrigerators and telephone systems.

Mr Clark told MPs in a statement that £370 million was being spent on the Whitehall scheme. Each department would have to present progress reports, and random tests would be carried out on computers thought to be compliant. "The timetable is tight and there is little margin for error," he said.

He estimated that £1 billion would have to be spent to make the whole public sector safe.



Montserrat: an eruption of the island's volcano in June killed 19 people

## On-the-record move is in the right direction

RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS

THE Blairisation of Whitehall took a further important step forward yesterday. The prosaically entitled *Report of the Working Group on the Government Information Service* is revealing a document about how the Blair administration works as has so far appeared — confirming the key roles of Peter Mandelson and Alastair Campbell. Students of the "hidden wiring" will learn of the daily meetings chaired by the former bringing together "key players".

It is easy to get over-excited about charges of politicisation and the role of Labour spin-doctors. The true story is less melodramatic and more complicated. Yesterday's report from a mixed Civil Service-political group clears the air and is largely welcome.

First, the proposal to conduct the twice-daily briefings by the Prime Minister's Chief Press Secretary on the assumption that they are on-the-record is sensible and long overdue. There has been a gradual shift to greater openness and more direct attribution over the past decade as part of a greater transparency in government and a more open style among a new generation of political journalists.

At least authorised ones will clearly be so. The usual suspects will still be chattering away, if no longer peering from the Red Lion. These informal, unattributable contacts are inherent in journalists' relations with politicians. But the change, while having a limited practical impact, is a gain for honesty and clarity.

Secondly, the proposals to streamline the Government Information Service are largely justified. During the summer, misunderstandings, and worse, developed between new ministers and their advisers and the GIS, leading to a wave of early retirements and, in some cases, forced departures of heads of information. Faults existed on both sides: ministers were right to feel that the GIS needed a shake-up but some were criticising press officers for failing to perform essential political roles. A new concordat between the two was needed, as well as an updating of information practices. Yesterday's proposals are intended to bring Whitehall press officers in the world of 24-hour media and instant response with a new media monitoring unit following the successful Labour operation. It is also sensible to develop closer relations between policy civil servants and press offices. Guide-

lines have been set out on what is appropriate for press officers to do, but I am still not sure that all ministers fully realise the distinction between the interests of the Government and of the Labour Party. The job of civil servants is to make the Government successful, not to re-elect Labour.

Thirdly, the most striking feature of the report is the proposed closer co-ordination of information at the centre — for a new electronic information system and Strategic Communications Unit combining civil servants and special advisers to co-ordinate, rather than to "spin". Its job will be to implement, not to make policy. This unit would be six strong but that is quite an addition to a current total of about 30 civil servants and advisers in No 10.

The official emphasis is on co-ordination, but the consistent theme is centralisation, a desire to strengthen the ability of the Prime Minister's Office, not just to present a coherent message but also to influence the development of policy throughout Whitehall. Much of this is desirable. Political scientists have for long debated the "hole" at the centre of British government. But yesterday's changes will need watching as part of a more general attempt to strengthen the levers of power in Downing Street.

PETER RIDDELL

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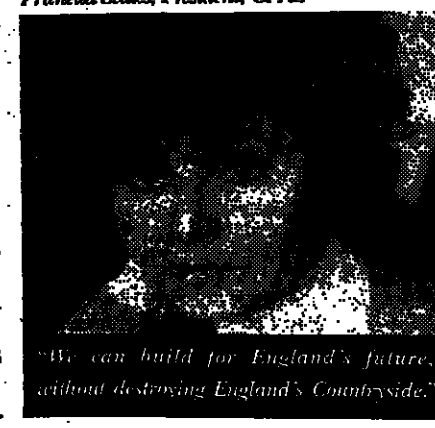
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# Likud politician calls for Palestinian state

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A LEADING member of Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud party yesterday backed the creation of a limited Palestinian state in a new challenge to the policy of the embattled right-wing Israeli Prime Minister.

The move, by Meir Sheerit, Likud's chief whip, came as Mr Netanyahu faced criticism from all sides over his handling of the faltering peace process and was threatened with a right-wing Knesset revolt to topple his coalition.

Yesterday, crude posters depicting him in an Arab keffiyeh headband under the slogan "The Liar" were distributed in Jerusalem by extreme right-wing Jews furious that he plans to hand back more West Bank land to Palestinians.

Underlining the severity of his dilemma, the *Yediot Aharonot* daily reported him as saying: "The Americans are treating me like Saddam Hussein," because of repeated snubs by President Clinton.

who blames him for being too uncompromising with the Arabs.

Mr Sheerit, in remarks that led to calls for his resignation, said: "I think that it is possible to achieve peace with the Palestinians. I am not afraid of them and I am not afraid of a Palestinian state. The most important thing is to initiate

**"I think that it is possible to achieve peace with the Palestinians. I am not afraid of a Palestinian state"**

the establishment of a Palestinian state while we are in power."

He added: "If we are the ones to initiate a Palestinian state, we can do it under the best possible conditions for Israel. If we do nothing, at the end of the process, a Palestinian state will be created under the worst possible conditions." His surprise conversion

came only days after Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, announced that in May 1999, at the end of the period laid down for negotiations under the Oslo peace accord, he will unilaterally declare a state and call for world recognition. "If we initiate an arrangement, a final arrangement, we can arrive at the best arrangement

ment for the state of Israel," said Mr Sheerit, 39, who argued that a left-wing government would cede more land. Under his proposal, Jerusalem would remain under Israeli sovereignty, the Jordan River would remain Israel's border and Israel would annex most of the 144 Jewish settlements.

The "Liar" posters were

ominously reminiscent of the right-wing hate campaign that preceded the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Prime Minister, in November 1996. Mr Rabin was shot by a right-wing Jew who claimed religious justification for murdering him to prevent the West Bank being handed to the Palestinians under terms of the 1993 peace deal signed in Washington.

Yesterday's posters were signed in the name of a far-right movement known in Hebrew as Hatzit Harayon, the "Idea Front". Last night Israel radio reported that police had arrested Noam Federman, a prominent right-wing Jewish activist, and an unnamed minor on suspicion of putting up the posters.

Questioned in a CNN television interview about Mr Clinton's apparent refusal to meet him, Mr Netanyahu said: "It is unbecoming, it does not benefit nations who are allies, and even does not benefit nations who are not allies."



A Jerusalem poster depicting Mr Netanyahu as Mr Arafat under a slogan, "The Liar"

## Russian captain accused of treason

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE Russian counter-intelligence service said yesterday that a naval captain who revealed how nuclear waste was dumped at sea by the Russian Navy had been charged with treason.

General Viktor Kondratov, the head of the Federal Security Service in Vladivostok, said that Captain Grigori Paskov would be tried for one of Russia's most serious offences, which carries a sentence of life imprisonment. The naval officer was arrested on Sunday after returning from a trip to Japan. Before he left Vladivostok, customs officials confiscated documents in his possession about Russia's Pacific Fleet.

Although the authorities insist the matter is a straightforward case of espionage, Oleg Kozlov, the captain's lawyer, said his client had been warned repeatedly to drop his private investigations into environmental issues. He wrote articles condemning dumping at sea.

## Swiss prepared to defend war policy at Nazi gold debate

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND PETER CAPELLA

SWITZERLAND has prepared a robust defence of its wartime record to forestall any attempt to pillory its dealings with Nazi Germany at next week's conference in London on Nazi gold.

Thomas Borer, a diplomat heading the task force on Swiss banking and financial affairs during the war, will tell delegates from the 42 countries attending the Lancaster House meeting that Switzerland had to buy gold from Germany because in 1941 the allies had frozen the bulk of the Swiss National Bank's reserves deposited in America for security before the war.

He argues that only gold obtained from Germany was freely tradeable, and was needed for vital transport. All imports from Romania, Hungary, Portugal and Turkey had to be paid for in gold.

Mr Borer refutes the common view that the Swiss National Bank traded mainly with Germany. It bought SwFr1.2 billion of German gold, but far more from the allies, and during the war dealt with the central banks of 16 countries.

His delegation will be one of about 30 countries presenting historical papers at the

two-day conference. British officials have given a warning that if delegates start trading accusations, the attempt to unearth new archives could be frustrated.

Britain, France and America, which still hold 5.5 tonnes of gold not yet distributed by the Tripartite Gold Commission, want the ten claimant countries to endorse their proposal to turn it over to a fund for victims of the Nazis.

In Switzerland, relatives of Holocaust survivors have alleged that Britain applied laws on confiscated enemy property in a selective manner. They say that the assets of Eastern European nobility were returned while claims from survivors were rejected.

The families of Peter Csango, John Leopold and Reuven Tal have tried, for decades to recover money that was left with banks in London by their Hungarian and Romanian Jewish relatives before the war.

Mr Leopold said that, in contrast, documents in the Public Record Office show that Britain found ways to return the assets of some of Eastern Europe's richest and influential families, for example former King Carol II of Romania.

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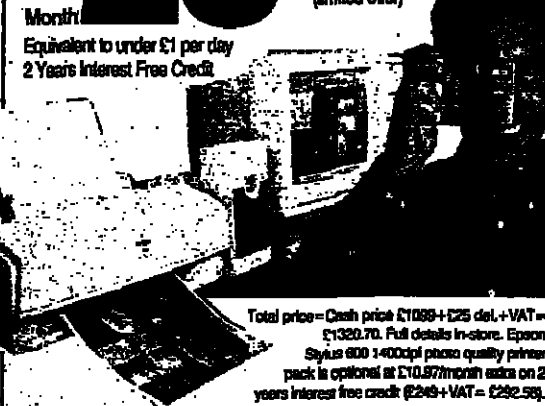
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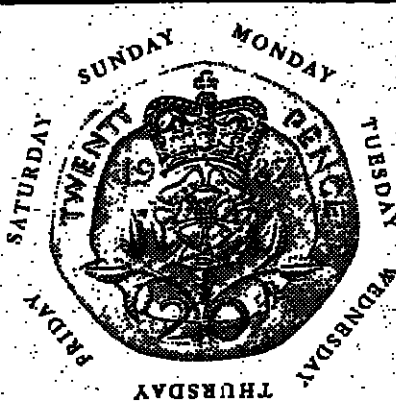
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FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN PRAGUE

Prague has announced a string of measures to give full citizenship and more secure lives to gypsies, and it has offered to pay about £18,000 to bring home those in Britain.



## Martin Luther King's killer is pleading for a liver transplant, reports Tunku Varadarajan

The \$250,000 would secure a place on a waiting list for transplants at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre. He is serving a 99-year sentence at a jail in Nashville, Tennessee, but the state's medical insurance scheme makes no provision for transplants. No exception is made even for prisoners who contract infec-

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the hospital said: "Mr Ray cannot be placed on the national waiting list until certain financial obligations are met. Since the Tennessee Department of Corrections will not pay for Mr Ray's transplant, he will be required to pay a deposit before he can be listed for transplantation."

The hospital statement went on to say that Ray could not expect to be treated differently merely because he was a prisoner in poor health: "It is the philosophy of the hospital that all patients be treated equally and fairly, and that their candidacy for transplantation be judged on medical criteria alone."

The hospital did not address the point, raised by Ray's lawyers, that the patient — an imprisoned man — did not

Ray's latest application for leave of absence must be approved by a daunting number of officials, including the Memphis district attorney, the prison doctors and, finally, the state prisons commis-

Ray, who confessed to murdering King in Memphis in 1968, recanted just two weeks after his conviction. Ever since, he has fought doggedly for a new trial. Recently, he secured the support of King's own son.

**Tehran:** A foreigner in Iran is to stand trial for allegedly seducing around 40 young women, a newspaper reported. The suspect, whose identity and nationality were not disclosed, presented himself as a diplomat and "collaborated" with staff at an unnamed Western embassy, it said. (AP)

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN NEW YORK

In an intriguing essay devoted to the phenomenon, to be published on Sunday in *The New York Times Magazine*, Margaret Talbot suggests that the aim of the course is to give whites "the same kind of critical . . . scrutiny that self-defined

The tenor of this scholarship, and of White Studies in general, is far from triumphalist or racist. On the contrary, it

The aim of many of the proponents of *White Studies* is to dislodge the well-established view in America that whites are "the norm," and that they transcend the identity debate which rages in America. According to Annalee Newitz, a Berkeley scholar who co-edited *White Trash* (an anthology of studies of "po' white folk"), "whites are said to consider themselves a neutral universal category, hence non-racial and superior to 'racialised' others ... their self-image as whites is thus both underdeveloped and yet extremely presumptuous"

FROM JAN RAATH  
IN HARARE

The CFU has been given a list of the farms, but the 4,500 members have been warned not to make it public until it has been formally gazetted.

□ **Veterans' tax:** The Government presented plans to parliament in Harare for a new tax to pay back impoverished veterans of the independence war. The Bill is expected to be rushed through. (AFP)

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# India mobilises for all-out war against polio

Christopher Thomas reports on the biggest immunisation plan in history

INDIA is mobilising its armed forces, two million health workers and millions of youth volunteers in a spectacular push against poliomyelitis. It will be the single biggest immunisation programme in history, reaching at least 125 million children.

The decline in polio in the sub-continent over the past few years has been stunning: in Sri Lanka, it may already have been beaten. Pakistan and India should be largely clear of the virus in three years, when it is hoped that polio will have been all but wiped out worldwide. It will thereafter join smallpox as a defeated disease.

A country without a single polio case for three years is entitled to be declared free of the disease, and India hopes to be certified as polio-free by the World Health Organisation (WHO) by 2005. On one day next month, and again in January for the requisite second dose, volunteers will administer vaccines to at least 97 per cent of children under the age of five.

The logistics are staggering. Vaccines will be delivered to 650,000 booths, located so that most people will be within walking distance of one. The army and paramilitary forces will provide transport. Two million health workers have been hired by the Government and the WHO.

Rotary International, a sig-

nificant force behind the worldwide campaign against polio, has donated £3.25 million for vaccines and publicity material for the drive.

Before the campaign started two years ago — later than most other parts of the world — India had 60 per cent of the globe's polio cases. The figure is now half that.

This will be the third and biggest operation of its kind in the past two years, proving to sceptics that Indian anarchy can give way to efficiency. Britain, Japan, Denmark and the United Nations are contributing £35 million. The operation will be repeated next year and, if necessary, for up to two more years after that to ensure eradication.

Many new-born children missed the last two immunisation drives because mothers were unable to get them to booths. This time there will be more mobile booths, as well as house-to-house visits to areas where polio has been reported. The West is free of polio and

it has been virtually eradicated in China, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Africa remains a problem area. In India, it is down 78 per cent from two years ago.

The mass immunisation will involve the distribution of 380 million doses of oral vaccine, all of which must be kept cool. Teachers and schoolchildren, and millions of members of the Nehru Youth Organisation, which is one of the world's biggest grassroots bodies, will join Scouts, Guides and cadets in spreading the word.

Around the world it is estimated that 10-20 million people live with polio paralysis. The number of reported cases so far this year in India is around 700, although many cases go unreported.

□ **Afghan blight:** Despite a vaccination programme, polio cripples more Afghans than landmines, according to Belgian researchers. (Reuters)



A face begins to emerge from fragments of the damaged Assisi frescoes

# Stricken basilica in Assisi to reopen

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ASSISI

NINE weeks after the earthquake that destroyed irreplaceable works of art in Assisi, part of the great Basilica of St Francis is to reopen this weekend.

Father Nicola Giandomenico, the bursar and the friars' spokesman, said the badly damaged Upper Church would stay closed for repairs, but the Lower Church would open its doors to the public. He also announced that state television would broadcast a Christmas Eve concert from Assisi, conducted by Claudio Abbado, as an "act of faith in the basilica's future", followed by Midnight Mass celebrated by the Pope in St Peter's, Rome.

The reopening comes amid an increasingly heated debate over the fate of badly damaged medieval and Renaissance frescoes. Antonio Paolucci, the former Culture Minister in overall charge of the restoration, caused a furore by suggesting that the frescoes should be recreated or reconstructed by restorers using modern materials to "fill in the gaps" between recovered fragments.

Signor Paolucci said the frescoes by Cimabue, Giotto and other 13th-century masters in the Lower Church were "relatively intact, though dusty", and the building had been reinforced to make it structurally sound and safe for visitors. In the Upper Church, however, jagged

holes still gape in the great vaulted ceiling where the majestic figures of Cimabue's *The Acts of the Apostles* and Giotto's *The Doctors of the Church* once gazed down at visitors. Eighty square yards of damaged frescoes have been swept up, forming what *La Repubblica* called "the biggest jigsaw puzzle in history".

Some faces are beginning to emerge from the rubble at the hands of Paola Passalacqua, the chief technical restorer, starting with St Rufino, the 3rd-century bishop of Assisi. He is one of 16 figures — including St Francis and St Clare — that before the collapse decorated the soaring painted arch which adjoined and supported the *Doctors of the Church* frescoes. Like the *Doctors*, the figures on the arch are attributed to the young Giotto.

However, veteran experts such as Leonetto Tintori, who restored frescoes damaged by Allied bombs in Pisa and Prato after the Second World War, argue passionately that it is a tragic mistake to paint in missing sections since "respect for the work of the original artist" must be the guiding principle.

Signor Paolucci insists that the frescoes at Assisi were designed as "a harmonious artistic whole", and to leave "lots of white gaps" would "offend the eye. They would stick out like a sore thumb."

# Army mediates in Pakistan crisis

FROM ZAHID HUSSEIN IN ISLAMABAD

THE Pakistani Army, which has ruled the country for half its existence, now finds itself in a difficult role of mediator in a confrontation between the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice.

With the country drifting towards anarchy, the reluctant generals may be forced to act in an effort to salvage the country's faltering democracy.

General Jahangir Karamat, the Chief of Staff, who cut short an official visit to Britain last week, met the warring political leaders but failed to break the stalemate that has paralysed the country for the past eight weeks.

The situation took an ugly turn yesterday when members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League heckled Sajjad Ali Shah, the Chief Justice, during a court hearing, demanding that he step down. Hundreds of others demonstrated their

opposition to the Chief Justice, who arrived at the court under military escort.

Mr Chief Justice Shah is locked in a constitutional battle with Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister. The conflict flared last month over the appointment of Supreme Court judges. The stand-off intensified when the Chief Justice summoned Mr Sharif and charged him with contempt of court. The Chief Justice has also struck out several laws passed by parliament.

The confrontation between the executive and the judiciary has also involved President Leghari and the army. Mr Sharif has threatened to impeach the President for supporting the Chief Justice. There is also a move to revive the Council of Defence and National Security to enshrine the army's political role.

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OPENS SATURDAY IN CANTERBURY



هيكدا من لامل



Winnie Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a break in evidence yesterday

## ANC witnesses quail in face of Mrs Mandela

LEADING members of the African National Congress feared Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and her bodyguards failed to end her reign of terror in Soweto, Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission heard yesterday.

Senior ANC officials who testified yesterday said they had struggled for weeks to secure the release of four township youths allegedly abducted and tortured by Mrs Mandela and her "Mandela United Football Club" bodyguard in 1988 and 1989. However, none was willing to say she held them against their will.

They also declined to explain why they did not ask to see the youths, whom Soweto residents and Bishop Peter Storey, then head of the Methodist Church in Johannesburg, believed were being tortured.

The ANC veterans were members of a group known as the Mandela Crisis Committee, set up to try to restrain the football club. They told the commission that they had tried cautiously to investigate reports that Stompie Seipei, a teenage activist, had been assaulted and possibly killed at Mrs Mandela's home. They visited her to plead for the release of Stompie and other activists.

The ANC leaders testified that they were frustrated by her behaviour, and produced documents sent to Oliver Tambo, then president of the party, and to Nelson Mandela, which said she should be isolated and the football club disbanded.

But faced with Mrs Mandela herself, in a white and black spotted suit and designer sunglasses, their criticism turned to mumbles and evasions.

Bishop Storey said that while the cancer of South Africa had been apartheid, it had resulted in "secondary infections which eroded some people's sense of right and wrong". He suggested that the Mandela Crisis Committee was as much concerned with "damage control" as it was with ensuring the release of the abducted youths.

Mrs Mandela, who is seeking the deputy presidency of the ANC at next month's conference, faces accusations of up to 13 murders and numerous human rights abuses during the time when President Mandela was still a prisoner.

Frank Chikane, former leader of

**Sam Kiley sees veterans admit that they did not dare stand up for abducted youths**

the South African Council of Churches and now a senior adviser to Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, said he was part of the Mandela Crisis Committee. "The reaction of 'Mama' was of a person under siege. The reaction was to say: 'You are talking like the [apartheid] system,'" he said, using the name by which supporters refer to Mrs Mandela.

Aubrey Mokoena, now an MP, declined under repeated questioning to condemn directly Mrs Mandela's actions and said she might have been unaware of the criminal and brutal behaviour of her entourage.

Sydney Mufamadi, who was also a member of the group and is now minister in charge of the police, said they were once allowed to meet three of the five youths, allegedly being held at Mrs Mandela's home.

Mr Mufamadi said all three bore fresh wounds, but that the other two attributed their injuries to

falling from trees. He said the group did not dare to confront Mrs Mandela with the allegation that the boys had been kidnapped and were being assaulted because they could not offer the children sanctuary.

Mr Mufamadi earlier submitted to the commission several internal documents, including one which reported to ANC leaders. One read: "It is with a feeling of terrible sadness that we consider it necessary to express our reservations about Winnie Mandela's judgment in relation to the Mandela Football Club."

In another letter, the group appealed to Tambo in London: "Help us. Map out the way forward pertaining to Winnie's political life."

However, while members of the Mandela Crisis Committee appeared unwilling to censure her directly, a senior member of the Government accused Mrs Mandela of condoning or participating in criminal activity and said she should be declared unfit to hold public office.

Azar Cachalia, now Secretary for Safety and Security, and Murphy Morobe, a former activist who now heads the Government's Financial and Fiscal Commission, testified jointly about the football club's reign of terror.

In what Mr Cachalia called "perhaps the most sickening case", he said two youths were abducted to Mrs Mandela's home during the final phase of white rule and were accused by the football club, which he called "a vigilante gang", of being police informers.

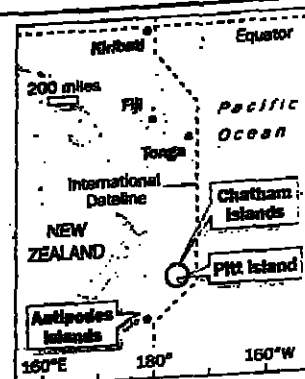
"On one of them the letter 'M' was sliced into his chest with a penknife and the words 'Viva ANC' were carved down his right thigh. The second youth also had the words 'Viva ANC' carved on his back."

"At best for Mrs Mandela, she was aware and encouraged this criminal activity. At worst, she directed it and actively participated in the assaults," Mr Cachalia said.

Piet Retief, Truth commission investigators have found the bodies of more than 260 ANC guerrillas killed and secretly buried by the apartheid security forces, an investigator said. Fifteen bodies were exhumed near the border with Swaziland yesterday. (AFP)



Chikane: "She was like a person under siege"



## Islanders will see dawn of a new age

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE first inhabited land to greet the sun as the new millennium dawns will be Pit Island, a rocky New Zealand dependency that is home to 750 people and 250,000 sheep.

Standing on Hakepa Hill, the lucky islanders and any tourists and television crews that have paid to attend will see the sun rise 14 seconds before 4.45am local time on the morning of January 1, 2000. In Britain, it will still be 4pm on the afternoon of December 31, 1999. The truly adventurous might anticipate the Pit Island dawn by five minutes by going to the uninhabited Antipodes Islands further south.

The calculations appear in the latest edition of *The Geographical Journal*. Unimportant as they seem, much may hang on them, because two rival groups are aiming to sell television and media rights to the first sunrise of the new millennium.

One group is headed by Norris McWhirter, the former *Guinness Book of Records* editor, who is also one of the authors of the *Geographical Journal* article. Its results will please him, because the Millennium Adventure Company that he heads has bought up part of Hakepa Hill and plans to sell the rights.

A rival consortium, First Light 2000, has claimed that the hill is usually mist-shrouded at dawn, and is offering five other sites on Pit Island. The claim has been denied by Millennium Adventure, who said the hill is no mistier than any other part of the island.

## Police arrest tenth of the force

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE  
IN JOHANNESBURG

MORE than 10,000 South African police — almost a tenth of the force — were arrested in the 15 months from January 1996 to May 1997 for alleged crimes ranging from armed robbery and theft to rape and corruption.

Sydney Mufamadi, the Safety and Security Minister, has told parliament that the 10,313 officers were linked to crimes including 107 armed robberies, 653 thefts, 193

corruption cases, illegal possession of firearms, rape, reckless driving and murder. Of those held, 412 have so far been convicted.

In the most recent incident, Inspector Theminkosi Ntando, 31, was apprehended for robbing a post office. Charges included robbery, illegal possession of a firearm and car theft. He fled before trial and is still at large.

Joseph Ngobeni, a police spokesman, said the reasons police turned to crime "can be attributed to a lack of self-discipline and a

lack of loyalty and pride in the South African police services".

The problem had been exacerbated by the amalgamation of apartheid's 11 policing agencies — and 11 different disciplinary codes — under one democratic policing umbrella, in 1995.

However, he maintained that the problem was being addressed, and that "one uniform single code of conduct was implemented last month to prevent confusion, which we hope will assist towards our goals".

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# A long struggle between the Acts

Entertaining but exasperating: Adams Mars-Jones charts the battle for homosexual law reform from newly released government documents

The trouble with socialism, according to Oscar Wilde, was that it would take too many evenings. The trouble with homosexual law reform in this country, as it trundled erratically towards the achievement of the Sexual Offences Act of 1967, was that it took altogether too many mornings, afternoons and evenings.

The Public Record Office has released a great branch of documents relevant to the struggle, most of them covering familiar ground but some of them full of entertainment value in their own exasperating way.

Labouchere's Amendment, the notorious "blackmailer's charter" of 1885 that prohibited all forms of sexual activity between men, was tacked onto a Bill to make further provision for the protection of women and girls and took far less than an evening to bring about. The chamber was half empty and there was virtually no debate. It occupies a third of a column in *Hansard*. It took millions of man hours, from the 1850s on, to supplant it.

It is no news that those who introduced reforming legislation, Lord Arran in the Upper House and Leo Abse in the Lower, had nothing to gain personally from a liberalisation of society's atmosphere and were anxious that their position not be misconstrued. Arran later admitted to having spent a year "permanently, if slightly pickled" after the walls of his office, his club, and many Underground stations were daubed with the message "Arran homo".

Part of the documentation, though, is new: a transcript of a BBC interview from June 1962, between Leo Abse and Edward Gardner, MP. The most interesting passage was cut from the broadcast, either for technical reasons or to smooth ruffled feathers. Abse starts by pointing out that a Government which hopes to take Britain into the Common Market will find itself in a peculiar position "if a man can be living with an adult, let us say in Denmark, and if he comes into this country, he can find himself subjected to the criminal law".

The invocation of Europe is apt and even prophetic: the 1967 Act was found by the European Commission in 1981 to have breached the European Convention by excluding Northern Ireland from its provisions. But Edward Gardner shrewdly shifts the discussion from Denmark to somewhere insidiously southern and corrupting. He agrees that there is a different atmosphere "shall we say in a place like Capri", where homosexuality can be indulged "on a whim". Mr. Abse is reduced to spluttering "I have never been to Capri... from what you tell me, I have no desire to go there, because I would find it particularly offensive, if the atmosphere which could only be shown by public homosexual behaviour came to my notice".

In a more classically educated age, the

reference to Capri was particularly deadly. This was the island where, as Suetonius recorded, Tiberius trained boys to pleasure him while swimming. To link a law reformer to Capri was to associate him with the most seditious decadence.

No wonder politicians struck an almost pathologically healthy note. The Home Office spokesman, Lord Stonham, told his fellow peers: "I must have been remarkably lucky or exceptionally blind but, during a fairly active life among men, including 25 years' participation in team games, I did not personally encounter homosexuality".



Reformer Leo Abse suffered taunts and abuse

most of us know that in Ancient Greece even Olympic heroes took male lovers. Looked at through the mists of 2,000 years it became etherealised and possible. Looked at in a 1965 magistrates court it was at best impossible, at worst bestial.

It sounds like an opponent of law reform speaking; in fact, it was a supporter. When two law lords (Kilmuir and Goddard) referred with apparent authority to the existence of "buggers' clubs" and "sodomitic societies" it was Stonham who had to be briefed to rebut them. The opinion of the Director of Public Prosecutions was sought. His office replied that no such places had existed in London for ten years, according to Scotland Yard. There was, however, a rider: "We, of course, have had a number of cases involving what may be described as a 'nest of buggers', but these involved the use of premises by these people as a focal point for meeting from which they would go independently to other premises to commit their respective offences." This is a familiar double standard. I go with my girlfriend to a lovers' lane, you have sex in public. I go with my wife to a wine and cheese party; you frequent

a nest of buggers. Labouchere's Amendment warped millions of lives between 1885 and 1967. The best monument to those lives is *Between The Acts*, a book of oral histories edited by Kevin Porter and Jeffrey Weeks, full of sadness, humour and revelation.

These interviews were conducted in 1978-79 with the financial help of the Social Science Research Council, until an incoming Government with a different agenda cut the Council's funds. On the evidence of these 15 life histories, it may be that it was the Second World War which made homosexual law reform inevitable. When half the world was in uniform and far from home, a subculture that thrived on anonymity received a massive boost, and the blackout made darkness general, public places private.

Theatre-goers in London can currently learn about the recent Dark Ages of homosexual life from two plays. The revival of Mart Crowley's *The Boys in the Band* from 1968 at the Aldwych is a reminder of life before liberation — a not particularly welcome reminder for a gay generation that takes its rights for granted. Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love* at the National Theatre has Labouchere as a character, although refracted through the memories and imagination of the play's central character, A.E. Housman. At one point in Stoppard's dream-play, Labouchere even claims to have devised his amendment as a way of forcing the withdrawal of an Act he thought badly drafted, and to have no personal objection to "a French kiss and what-you-fancy between two chaps safe at home with the door shut". If only!

Stoppard in his play is able to do without apparent effort what those law reformers found so hard: to take homosexual emotion seriously. His Housman's jokes and sadnesses, large regrets and small fulfillments, are both particular and universal pangs.

In the years immediately after the 1967 Act, prosecutions went down, not up. Pretty policemen were used for purposes of entrapment until a year or two ago. There are still discriminatory offences on the statute book, such as "soliciting for an immoral purpose," and there is still no equality in the age of consent.

As the newly released documents reveal, in June 1967, José Agente from the Attorney-General's Office of Puerto Rico, wrote to the Home Office, asking for assistance. He had been charged with gathering groundwork for the sections on homosexuality and obscenity of a new penal code for his country, and needed help with the "difficult work of exploring new ways for a sane and modern administration of justice". An official reply was duly drafted, laying out the glories of the British legal system as it applies to those areas. A more truthful response at the time might have been: If it's sanity and modernity you want, ask someone else.



The battle goes on: there are still discriminatory offences on the statute book, and there is still no equality

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# Like the real thing, but so much better

Watching the catwalk shows for the current season was a bit like witnessing a reconstruction of Noah's Ark. Only occasionally did the models come down two by two, but the array of animal pelts was striking. From snake and crocodile through to cosy sheepskins, designers' animal instincts were given free rein.

Not all of it was the genuine article. To the horror of campaigners, real fur has indeed made a comeback. But at the same time, artificial substitutes for every type of animal skin are finding new credibility. Faking it is no longer a cheapskate's alternative nor a reaction to animal rights' lobbying, but a positive choice.

The British designer Paul Frith, whose sleek "leather" suiting is sold in the designer rooms of Harrods, among others, uses almost exclusively leatherette. Joseph, while designing and selling the real thing, has rescued PVC trousers from their uncomfortable, fetishist beginnings. They come in every colour, in shiny and matte finishes, in fake snakeskin, in hipster and boot-leg cuts... and nobody, but nobody, would judge them inferior to leather.

As designers have experimented, so the high street has been able to get in on the act, producing leatherette side-split skirts, jackets, suedette

Faking it is no longer the cheapskate's alternative, nor is it a reaction to the animal rights lobby. It's fashionable, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

shirts and trousers, and fake-fur collared coats that are desirable in their own right, rather than as cheap copies of catwalk designs. All the leathers, suedes and furs shown, here are fake.

Indeed, the fake fabrics themselves are taking on a style status of their own, independent of the things they were designed to imitate. Stephen Higginson, editor of *International Textiles*, compares it to the rise of Australian and New Zealand wines: "When people first began drinking them, they would talk of a wine being like a Bordeaux or a French chardonnay. Then it became, 'This isn't like anything, it is what it is.' Similarly with these new fabrics. As designers experiment, their artificiality is seen as a positive thing."

Breakthroughs in technology have given the new fabrics breathability, and Lycra has added stretch. Other advances in microfibres have vastly improved the tactile qualities and appearance. Some are more versatile than real animal skins. They also take colour better, and their performance ratings are higher.

Even so, says Higginson: "At the designer end of things, you never quite know what things are made of, unless it's a capsule collection made at the behest of, say, Tencel."

"Rich people always like to think that they've got the genuine article. But style is everything now. It's what it

visual impact — the cold-blooded impact of snakeskin, the sexual connotations of fox fur and the "foxy lady" image. But it can boil down to money. As Lurie puts it: "Most purchasers of fur coats are unfamiliar with the behaviour of the beasts from which they come: all they want to say is 'I am a very expensive animal.'"

In this spirit, American *Vogue* ran an entire shoot called *Svelte Pelts* in which everything was real. Dolce & Gabbana and Gucci's fox-fur trimmed coats, Etro's Mongolian lambswool coat, and Versace's cashmere cardigan with fox-fur trim were exercises in unabashed consumption.

At the other end of the scale from this kind of retro romanticism, however, slouches the high-trash rock chick glamour of Alexander McQueen and Anna Molinari. Punched-out holes, slashed fringing and "binliner"-style dresses with flat necklines hark back to the style of such tough rock women as Chrissie Hynde, Patti Smith and Siouxsie Sioux. It's a punk-goth-rock'n'roll thing, reminiscent of Kensington Market in the

late Seventies and the early Eighties.

Thankfully, stylists have found a middle ground between this kind of hard-edged aesthetic and the romantic opulence of designers such as John Galiano for Dior and Dolce & Gabbana. By mixing fabrics and putting traditionally heavier outdoor pieces with lighter textures, they've created a day to evening look that softens and feminises Eighties agro-chic, and tones down the outrageously expensive allure of the lusher pieces. Sheer tops go under leather suits. A woolly jumper offsets a rich, fur-collared coat. Shapes are sleek and colours such as aubergine, burgundy and olive green mix in with harsher blacks and browns.

Take away the styling, however, and there's often a futuristic edge to some of the pieces.

Warren Griffiths, a London-based designer who experiments with new materials, believes that this is the way things are going. "People will talk about whether a particular designer is about cut or fabric. But everybody can cut. Some of the most interesting companies are using new fabrics, but with a very simple cut. I don't think it is necessary to use real skins. It's far more exciting to source a new fabric than to buy part of a cow."

It's far more exciting to source a new fabric than to buy part of a cow'

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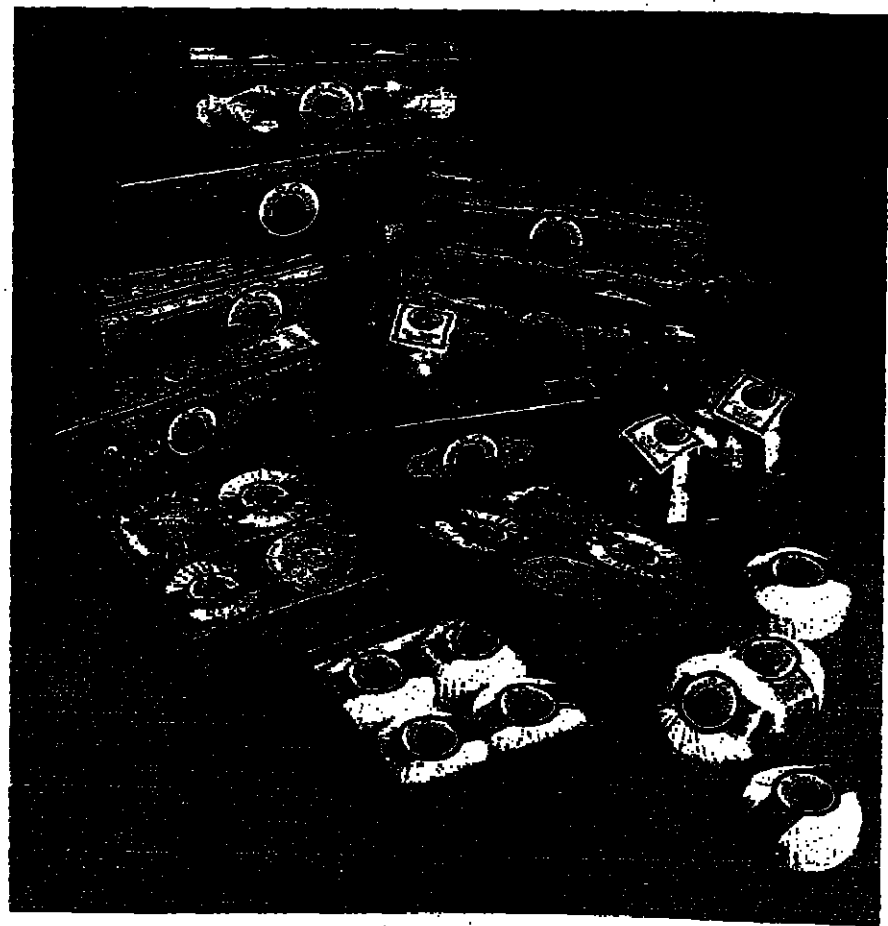
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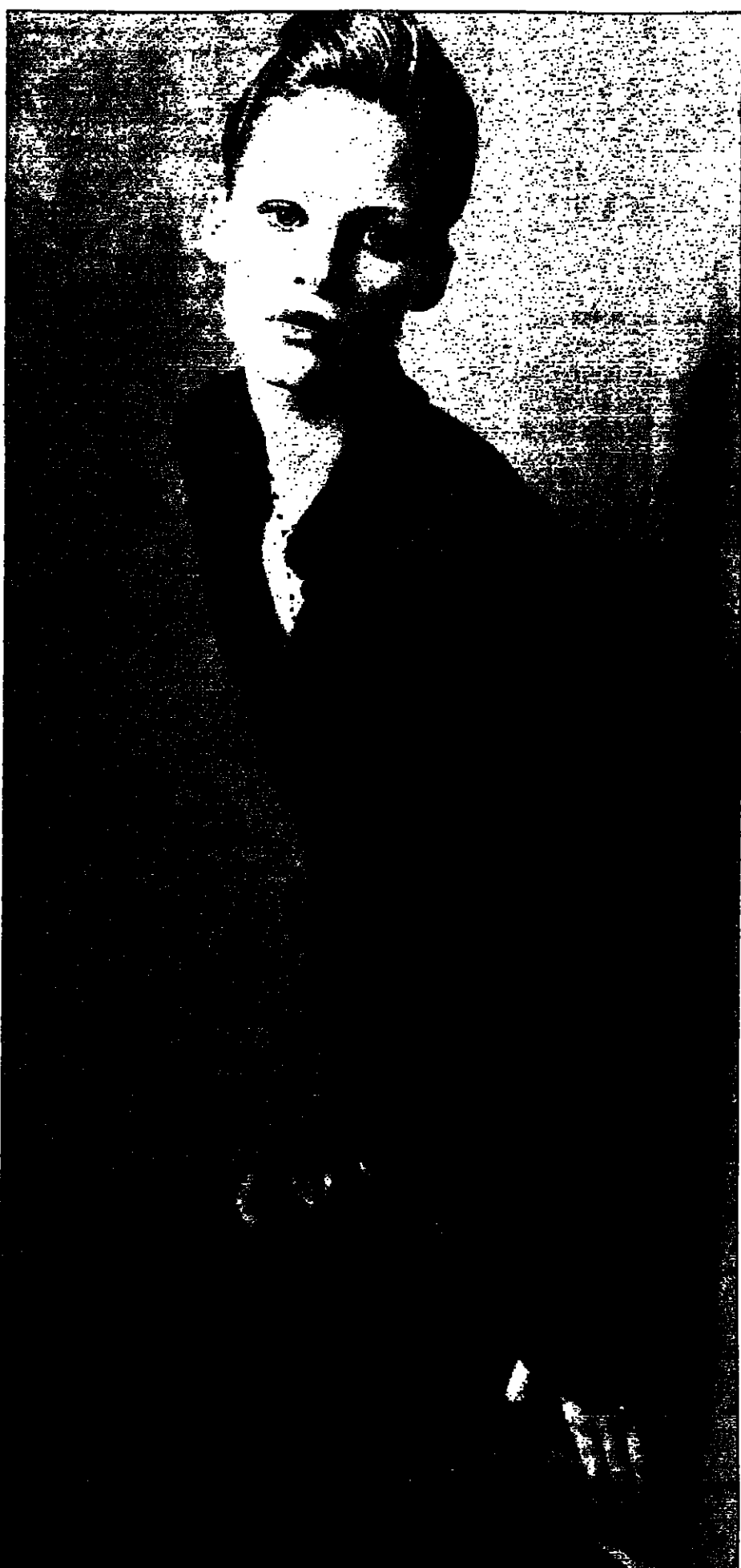
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Chocolate PVC one-button jacket, £79, and matching pencil skirt, £49.99, by Kooka, 123 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-937 4411). Burgundy cowl neck, £125, by Patrick Cox, 125 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-730 8885).

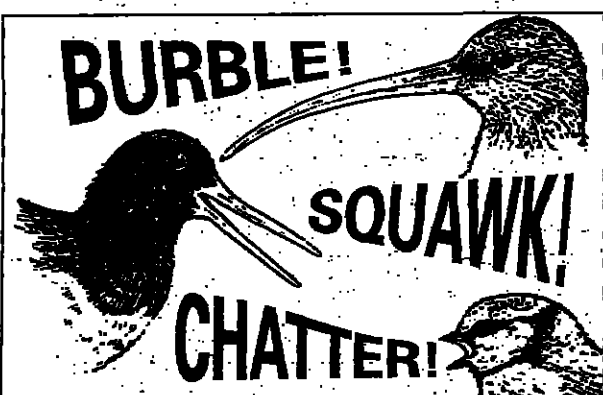
**TOP LEFT (main picture):**  
Pale grey and olive striped devoré tank, £90, by Ghost, 36 Ledbury Road, London W11 (0181-960 3121). Burgundy A-line leatherette skirt, £65, by Wit and Wisdom at Hype DF, 48-52 Kensington High Street (0171-937 6355).

**TOP RIGHT:**  
Brown suede-like shirt, £26.99, by Oasis, available from branches nationwide (01865 881986). Chocolate PVC pencil skirt, £150, by Plein Sud at Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW3. Black bead and diamanté necklace, £26, by Agatha, 4 South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-495 2779). Burgundy velvet ankle boots, £275, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street (0171-235 2932).

**BOTTOM LEFT:**  
Burgundy velvet belted coat with lake-lur trim, £339, by Joseph, 26 Sloane Street (0171-580 6200). Pale pink and black embroidered skirt, £468, and black silk underslip, £78, by Elspeth Gibson at A La Mode, Hans Crescent, London SW1 (Inquiries 0171-561 0773). Petrol blue leather stiletto ankle boots, £295, by Gina for Ghost.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
Lilac cable-knit poloneck, £75, by Whistles, 27 Sloane Street (0171-730 9819). Chocolate suede-like side-slit min, £29.99, by Jane Norman, from branches nationwide (0171-437 0132). Plum velvet knee boots, £169, by L.K. Bennett, 31 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-491 3005). Opaque tights by Wolford.

Photographer:  
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Stylist: Sunny Rowley  
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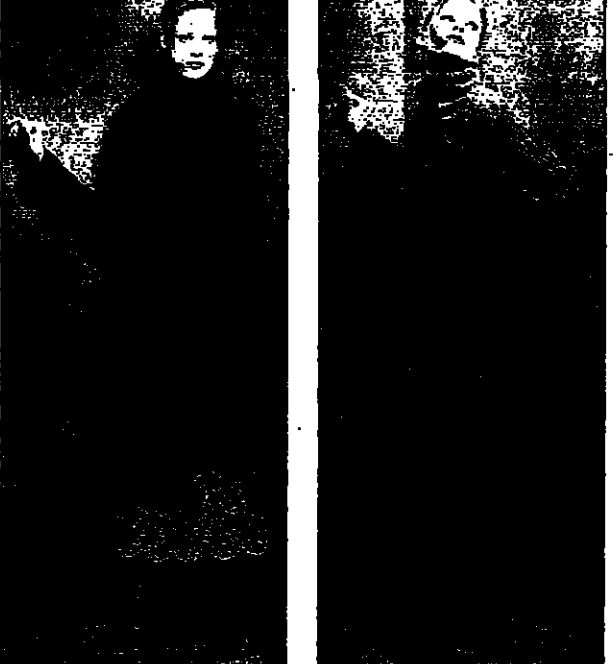
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# Is Blair too flexible to be a friend?

The trade unions still have their reservations, says John Lloyd

Flexibility is one of the great words of the end of the millennium. It has resonance. We know it is in some way right. It signifies the end of an era of late-industrial relationships in which places were, for a time, known and in which classes were, though never static, defined. It points out the potentials and dilemmas of an age in which symbols are often more important than objects. Its very omni-applicability and vagueness excite the imagination. It conjures up a world of endless malleability. In which the blocks and contradictions of life can be dissolved in an appeal to be flexible.

The logic of an age in which information-based capitalism is so rapidly replacing industrial capitalism means that the moorings to which societies tied themselves are loosened. No skill is forever learnt; no corporation is secure; no job, or at least no job description, is for life. Even if the insecurities of modern employment have been exaggerated, there is no doubt that the insecurities felt by many workers in advanced societies are real.

Flexibility in work seems to mean the emergence of a society in which a few who can best grasp and manipulate both information and people are rewarded highly. They become, in Tom Wolfe's satire of the information society, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, "Lords of the Universe".

The majority cope with the new societies more or less well. They are often enriched by the intellectual possibilities opened for them and by the end of the settled, sometimes oppressive relationships which characterised the industrial order.

But a large number are excluded and marginalised. They are useless — literally — for there is simply no work for their idle hands. Their intellects have not been trained, or they do not stretch them, or they cope with the lower level of information tasks. Karl Marx saw the rise of the proletariat as a force which could and would expropriate the expropriators, or capitalists. Now, the new Lords of the Universe are expropriating the proletariat. A new capitalism's flexible financial universe renders the workers workless, and makes of them an underclass.

This is the universe in which new Labour operates. It is itself a lord of it. This week, one of new Labour's more ambiguous figures tried to set some solid ground below his part of it. John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, is ambiguous not in his person, but in his relation to the "project". He has been seen, not wholly wrongly, as involved. He explicitly pursues a new unionism, seeking (as all union leaders in advanced societies must) to marry necessary flexibility with the continuation of a trade union role.

Yet he gave a speech on Wednesday evening to the Jim Conway Foundation which took direct issue with flexibility in its new Labour guise. Conceding the centrality of the

word, he said that it "concealed more than it illuminated". New ways of working were inevitable: a recasting of industrial society and of welfare states overdue.

But, he held, the awkward fact was that flexibility was interpreted as a lowering or ending of employment protection; declining unionisation; lower unemployment benefits. Britain, he said, tops the flexibility league in two ways: it is the easiest country in which to fire people and it has the lowest capital employed per worker.

Nor can it be said that where unions are strong, employment protection robust and benefits high, there is always higher unemployment. There is such a relationship if there are no active labour market policies; but otherwise no such conclusion can be drawn. He has put these points to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said he was interested, and asked for more information.

Tony Blair may well be interested. But he is governed by a fear — a fear of being seen to slip back into old Labour attitudes. Thus when he was interviewed about his pitch to fellow European heads of government at the jobs summit in Amsterdam last weekend, he said three times that to create jobs "is not to load a whole lot of costs on business" but to invest in education, setting a stable framework.

Britain is the easiest country in which to fire people

Gordon Brown's green Budget this past week was a lesson in setting a stable framework, new Labour-style. In confirming the cut in benefits to single-parent families by up to £11 a week and at the same time assisting the poorer pensioners over the winter, he gave flesh to what has always been his conception — to attract or push the able-bodied into work of any kind, and to be as generous as prudence allows to the old and the sick.

This is why the Labour leadership is nervous about the pro-trade union measures to which they are committed — especially the minimum wage and statutory recognition of trade unions. The leadership wants the wage to be set just above a level at which it would be wholly meaningless; and it wants the unions to produce an agreement with the CBI which will show its members to be happy to recognise unions where they organise a majority of workers. It fears it will get neither — and if so, that it will have industrial battles, and turn a flank to the Tories at last.

John Monks wants to marry flexibility with social justice, including social justice at work. New Labour likes the sound of that, but the reality of it will be hard to deliver. The Prime Minister shies away from it as a horse from fire. This Government will try, which is more than one could say of the last one. But it will take a very good trick indeed to pull off such a marriage.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.



## And then there were none

I was about seven, and we lived in Nicosia. My friend was a good-natured boy called David Gray. A year older, he was from a Yorkshire family and talked like William Hague.

We both had bicycles: his new, mine with no brakes. Playing by the dried-up river, we agreed it would be dangerous and fun to try freewheeling down the steep track to the bottom of the gorge. I urged David to try, on my old bike. I did mention the problem with the brakes but suggested that this added to the excitement. Oddly, in retrospect, David did not insist that a more suitable person to take risks on my bike was me. "Go on," I said, "you try".

He did. He gathered speed, lost balance and fell off. Though not seriously hurt, he gashed his jaw. David, if you are alive and reading this, I am sorry I talked you into it. And I am truly sorry that when you staggered back up the track with blood on your face, I lost my nerve and scurried. I was afraid of my mother. The incident reflects badly on my character.

And now a new danger. People in newspapers are persuading William Hague to go freewheeling without brakes down a steepening slope, and although I am sure that if William falls off, Bruce Anderson would own up and take him home, no stitches would mend Mr Hague's leadership as they did Master Gray's jaw.

One cites Bruce Anderson, the political editor of *The Spectator*, because nobody more persuasively puts the case for brakeless bicycling. He put it to me, on the letters page opposite. I had written in these columns that since Oppositions do not govern, they should feel in no hurry to settle policy on every awkward issue. Who knows? I said, events may settle the single currency question. Europhiles or Eurosceptics may wish to shift position later.

Bruce disagrees. He wrote *The Times* a courteous letter putting with passion the case for decisive action to settle the Tory course at once in a Eurosceptic direction. If there are some who are reluctant to march, he said, it is better they leave now. His argument is powerful, rational and profoundly unwise.

Anderson has been impressed, I suspect, by the way Labour has dealt with its hard Left. He concludes that you can strip backsliders from a political party rather than you pick the black bits from a peeled potato, leaving an essentially wholesome

Casting out his Europhiles would lose Hague allies and not impress voters

vegetable for the pot. And the sooner the better.

So there are a few wobblers over Hague's "not for a decade" approach to the single currency? So what? Ten times that number are loyal. Good riddance to dissenters! Teach them a lesson, stiffen the doubters, impress the public, kill the issue in the press, and free Hague's sword to strike at Labour! Look what leaving the dispute to simmer did to Major. Let's sort this thing out once for all.

Ah Bruce, read Tamburlaine. How balefully does that sentiment "once for all" echo down the centuries. How much blood which drew more blood, how many wars-to-end-all-wars, final reckonings whose bottom line began a new and bitter account, how many partnerships which foundered upon the rock of a truth that should never have been spoken... do we owe to the impatient rationality which insists we stop the jaw-jaw, cock our pistols and be done with it?

The Conservative Party is not a potato, and its "positive Europeans" are not isolated and superficial rotten spots upon the clean, white, orthodox flesh of Euroscepticism. The better analogy is with peeling an onion. As with an onion, there is no "core" Conservative Party but an interweaving of layers, all of them integral to the organism. Your onion, and your Tory party, do not divide into kernel — "essential onion" — and peel. In the end it is all peel. Remove one layer and you expose the next.

I hold no brief for Hugh Dykes. His arrogant certainties on Europe irritate me. But he is no socialist. Peel off Dykes and you expose Peter Temple-Morris.

I hold no brief for Peter Temple-Morris. His vanity annoys me. But he is not a bad man. He managed to stay a Conservative MP for 22 years, most under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher. So peel off Temple-Morris, you say, Bruce? Heaven knows it was easy to justify: Peter was offside and will not be missed.

But was it necessary? To push him before he jumped restored a dignity he had begun to lose — but push they

did. One more layer of peel departs the onion. Edwina Currie will be exposed next. Well, Bruce, I can hear you as I write: hooray, you say, the sooner that cow departs, the better.

I do not agree. Edwina is infuriating and her mania for publicity, I know, drives colleagues up the wall. But she is also a talented, brave and thoughtful woman, and one of the best communicators the Tories have. Ah well, another one bites the dust. A leaner, fitter orion now?

And then you have David Curry and Ian Taylor, both of whom have quit as Tory spokesmen. I hear no breath from either that they would contemplate quitting the party — but in the end both may. These are men of ability and uncommon sense. Few other junior ministers breathed the calm competence which was Taylor's hallmark. Curry's good brain and palpable decency marked him for an important post in a future Cabinet. Skipton & Ripon did not fail, as neighbouring Harrogate did, to the Liberals, but Curry is vulnerable to a Lib-Lab voting pact. He would be a heavyweight catch for the Liberal Democrats at Westminster — and I bet Paddy Ashdown would deal. The onion shrinks. Who next?

I realise Bruce might regard the departure of Sir Edward Heath as a cause for celebration, but I do think that to lose a former Prime Minister would look like carelessness. Anyone who thinks Sir Edward incapable of this shocking act does not know Ted. The party is diminished, but Bruce and a platoon of right-wing leadership writers are still cheering.

We peer into the crystal ball. 1998. The cheering grows a little ragged as Kenneth Clarke, Chris Patten, Michael Heseltine and John Gummer are rumored to be wavering. George Young has resigned from the Shadow Cabinet. Alastair Goodlad has thrown in the towel, Michael Ancram mutters. Stephen Dorrell stays but, with John Major, looks out of place. Norman Fowler, loyal but troubled, retires. Cecil Parkinson, retired, is rude about his leader at dinner parties. Also in the Lords, Geoffrey

Howe is openly contemptuous and Douglas Hurd privately dismissive. It is 1999. Mr Hague now depends very heavily on John Redwood, Michael Howard, Brian Mawhinney, Iain Duncan Smith (who has brought Julian Lewis and John Bercow in on his coat-tails) and Alan Duncan. Julian Brazier is made a junior defence spokesman.

And what baffles pollsters is that respondents consistently declare their views on Europe to be closely mirrored by this new Tory Likud; yet when asked to choose words which best describe the Tories, they select "narrow", "ideological", "unkind" and "extreme". Something measured, venerable, tolerant, careful; something... safe seems to have gone from the Conservative Party. Perhaps because we voters are secretly less confident of our opinions than we pretend, we place more importance on a party's prudential qualities — its affability and caution, its general air of good sense — than upon any particular congruence between its spokesmen's opinions and our own.

The year 2000 arrives. *The Times* runs a leading article declaring that the purge has been more protracted than was hoped, but now the party is ready. At 17 per cent in the polls, it can only be up! Heseltine retires and at the ensuing by-election, the Tories lose Henley.

Now Bruce: I don't know about you, my friend, but this prospect does not please me. You and I agree about the single currency, but our Conservative union was always a multi-layered thing and for 20 years — since Chris Patten hired us both at the Conservative Research Department — we stayed friends with Tories who took another view. Is the day coming when an openly gay man might be waved through into the Shadow Cabinet, guiltily hiding his secret doubt about whether, if the euro succeeds, Tories might not need to think again? How far should inclusiveness go?

One has to be very sure — gripped by the centrality of one's cause, certain it could not be mistaken — before one drives old friends away instead of trying to talk them round. Confident that problems with the single currency will not, I am not so confident as to be prepared to put my party to the sword of my opinions.

I fear the Conservative Party is riding for a fall. Forty years ago I failed one Yorkshireman by egging him on. I will not do the same to another.

Matthew Parris

## Don't kill off king coal

Keep our energy options open, says Yvette Cooper

What's a bright young woman like you doing defending an old, dirty, declining industry like that? This was the question implicit in the *Times* article yesterday which described me as a Blairite MP forced to defend the threatened coal industry. The journalist clearly found it hard to believe that a young woman, so closely associated with new Labour, should be standing up for an industry so strongly linked to Arthur Scargill. Safeguarding our collieries is being portrayed as a hopelessly nostalgic and uneconomic thing to do. Modern, hard-headed economists should — so the story goes — just let the market rip and shrug their shoulders if coal goes under.

But to caricature the debate in this way is not just wrong; it is dangerous. This is not to say that I believe the Government should leap in whenever big employers are in trouble. It can't. A sensible modern industrial policy recognises that in some markets free competition promotes the public interest, but in others — where there is monopoly power, for instance — regulation is essential. Energy markets are already regulated. But this is not working to promote the public interest. Both coal and the consumer are losing out.

When the energy industry was privatised, the previous Conservative Government handed over the lion's share of our generating capacity to two major companies: PowerGen and National Power. This duopoly has been able to use the strange mechanism of setting electricity prices (the pool) to keep customer bills, and their own profits, unfairly high.

Instead of breaking up the duopoly, reforming the pool or pushing prices down, the regulator chose to encourage new companies to enter the market, building power stations of their own. As gas-fired power stations are cheaper to construct than coal-fired stations, the push for new players turned into a dash for gas.

The regulator then permitted these new power producers to agree long-term contracts at high prices with the regional electricity companies that part-own them and then pass the costs on to their captive customers — us. These so-called "sweetheart deals" continue to exclude coal. Add into the equation subsidies to foreign coal and nuclear power, and it is clear that the playing field isn't level.

John Birtle was right to launch a full review of the pool and to decide this week to send those sweetheart deals back to the regulator for review. But there is a further reason for action.

No other market could switch our lights off, our life-support systems off, our computers off, or — heaven forbid — our televisions off. Few other markets have such considerable impact on our macroeconomic stability either. Without coal, we could end up with 70-80 per cent of our energy needs supplied by gas — a vulnerable position. In 20 or 30 years' time (when I shall still be in my fifties), British gas may not be as plentiful as it is today. With Algeria and Russia as the main alternative sources, it doesn't take a genius to work out that political instability could jeopardise our future economic security. Left to themselves, markets don't take account of those kinds of future political risks. Nations must.

The economist Dieter Helm, writing in the pages of this newspaper, recently argued that maintaining coal as an "insurance policy" was unjustified. The premium, he said, was just too great. But how on earth does he know that? The Government's Energy Advisory Panel, of which Mr Helm sits, says that not enough work has been done to know how great the risks really are.

We need urgent research into the level of risk we will face in future, so we can draw up a balanced strategy for responding to those risks. It is time to go further. The Government, power generators and coal producers need to come together urgently to seek solutions. The Government needs to hasten the pool review. A moratorium should be called on new gas-fired power stations and we should support the development of clean coal technology. Both gas and electricity regulators must now take a more robust approach to competition, stop the long-term gas contracts and clamp down directly on abuses of market power.

Meanwhile, the companies must recognise their responsibility to become more productive and efficient, working for contracts rather than playing brinkmanship games with people's jobs and people's lives. Coal producers must go out and make the case for coal, rather than waiting for government help. Coal should not be seen as an old declining industry, but as a modern, forward-looking industry, facing up to the challenges of competition and critical to our economic security. We need determined action now to get a fair deal and safeguard coal's future, not just for the sake of the 1,200 hard-working miners I represent, but for good economic and strategic reasons.

The author is MP for Pontefract and Castleford.

## Royal nosh

AFTER the hype surrounding the so-called "people's banquet", celebrations for the golden wedding of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are taking a more traditional turn. The couple have been invited for a secret feed at the House of Lords, courtesy of the Privy Council. Some 300 politicians are to attend next month — and the seating will conform strictly to rank. "The senior Counsellors will be placed near Her Majesty," says the Clerk of the Council, referring to the Earl of Avon, the Lord Chancellor... you know the crowd. Happily, it also marks a welcome return to the top table for the Earl of Caithness, the former minister whose wife, Diana, killed herself three years ago. The earl, now a successful estate agent, is expected to sit close to the Queen. People's champions Tony Benn and Lord Healey "will sit on other tables, slightly farther away".

● **TUESDAY** found Sir Tim Sainsbury partying at Somerset House, a ghoulish piece of masonry soon to be refurbished. The improvements, promised Sir Tim, would include making the courtyard "free of all cars". Odd, then, that staff had been instructed to create 11 courtyard parking slots for P-reg guests.

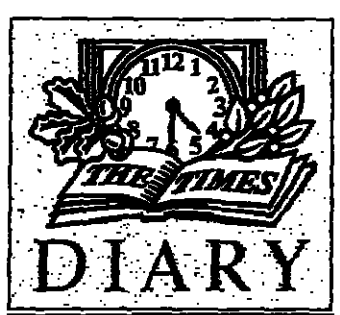
### Phone pest

IF YOU thought last night's BBC coverage from South Africa of the



The Queen: Lord Caithness

blockbuster *Spencer v Spencer* was a bit thin, blame the judge, Jeremy Vine. The Beeb's man, was thrown out of court after his mobile phone rang. The judge then asked Nicholas Mostyn, QC, a London lawyer, what would have happened to such a culprit in Britain. Mostyn said that a fat fine would be in order. He was in court as an expert witness for Earl Spencer, attempting to prevent his wife from landing too juicy a settlement. Odd, then, that Mostyn once explained that



most of his work was defending the "underdog" wives of rich men.

● **NOT CONTENT** with the revenue from her salacious screen appearances, Sharon Stone has resorted to busking. Last week found her on the platform of a New York subway station, subjecting her fellow travellers to a rendition of *Amazing Grace*. Although even the politest present were heard to complain that she was rather out of tune, several coins were tossed in her direction (if only to shut her up).

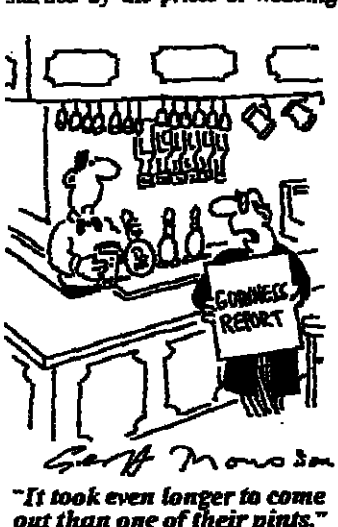
### Missing vow

LATEST bulletin from the wedding preparations of William Hague: the refreshingly independent Fionn Jenkins will not vow to obey her husband, a man who

spends much of his time ordering his MPs to toe the line. Traditionalists will be relieved to hear that this will be the only touchy-feely element to an otherwise traditional service.

Fionn's refusal does not faze the Rev Donald Gray, who will conduct next month's ceremony in the Crypt Chapel at the House of Commons. "Most couples don't tend to obey," he says. "I always meet couples before a service and run through the options — the decision is entirely up to them."

Guests, meanwhile, have been startled by the prices of wedding



gifts on offer at the Wedding Shop. "There's virtually nothing under £100," grumbles one.

### Heavy pet

ADOLESCENT spirits at Downside School — a monastic institution in deepest Somerset — have been raised by a visit from Pet Shop Boys Chris Lowe. The word among the electric-harpichord set is that Lowe wants to learn about Gregorian chanting, the music practised by the Downside monks, who released an album, *Gregorian Moods*, earlier this month.

Lowe, who was accompanied by the pocketmarked old drummer Simon Gilbert, clearly endeared himself to his hosts. "He's brilliant," gushes the Headmaster, Father Anthony Sutcliffe. "But I was too shy to tell them that I'd already been to the Pet Shop Boys concert for my birthday."

● **TRIUMPH**, at last, for Madonna: after three weeks scouring London's cul-de-sacs for suitable digs, she has bought a house in Kensington for £4 million. The pad — bleak, Georgian, off the High Street — needs extensive renovation. "It doesn't look hugely impressive from the outside, but it's worth every penny," says a friend. "There's excellent security



Kensington's newest resident

— it costs £45,000 for an underground parking space. Madonna will move in with her one-year-old daughter Lourdes, whom the singer wants to pack off to a police English prep school — Norland Place, Pembridge Hall, Kensington High, somewhere like that. It is also believed that she may find room for her latest armrest, Andy Bird, 27, an aspiring actor from a rather more modest establishment in Warwickshire.

JASPER GERARD





## GHOSTS OF LABOUR PAST

The minimum wage will benefit no one, least of all the poor

Yesterday's publication of the Bill to establish a national minimum wage was an act of ancestor-worship by the Government, a homage to the ghosts of old Labour past. Tony Blair's ambition to expand people's opportunities in a modern, competitive and humane Britain is ill-served by this irrelevant, economically illiterate and potentially harmful decision. To adapt Lord Keynes, it reveals the Prime Minister and his team as "the slaves of some defunct trade unionist". For Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, it was "a very proud day because it is the beginning of the end of poverty pay". It is better described as a detour from the Government's campaign to move people off welfare and into work — a strategy in which clumsy interventionist tinkering has no logical place.

Having fashioned this rod for its own back, the Government now confronts hard choices indeed, starting with the rate itself and its impact on employment. How will wages — which in the real world may include such things as tips, piecework rates, payments in kind such as subsidised meals or accommodation — be calculated? How will the minimum wage interact with benefit and taxes, if low income families are not to end up worse off? How often is the rate to be raised and on what basis? How can "catch-up" demands for higher wages by better-paid workers, or a growth in sub-minimum wage black market jobs, be avoided?

Ian McCartney, the minister responsible, says that it is up to the Low Pay Commission to come up with proposals, as also over whether to exclude trainees and young workers from the law. He insists that employers will learn to love the minimum wage because it will stop undercutting by bad employers and create a "level playing field". But it is by enforcing competition that

governments best level playing fields, not by dictating rates of pay. The minister says that Britain should follow the example of other major Western European countries — and dismisses their double-digit unemployment figures as irrelevant. Tony Blair, who lectures them constantly on the need for flexible labour markets, should not.

The computer projections flooding into the Low Pay Commission cannot make comforting reading. They show that a very low minimum wage of £3 to £3.70 an hour would price few people out of jobs, but equally would do little to lift the low-paid out of poverty. To cease to depend on in-work benefits, most workers would have to work nearly 70 hours a week; and the main beneficiary would then be the Treasury, with the employee gaining as little as 3p in the pound. A higher minimum wage of £4.15 an hour, well below the £4.60 sought by trade unions, would greatly benefit those who keep their jobs, particularly the 800,000 very low-paid whose existing wages would nearly double. But according to a DTI estimate this year for the previous Government, if other workers maintained wage differentials, the cost would be 1.8 million jobs. If a minimum wage will not help the poor and could cost jobs, whom will it benefit? The answer, from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, is that most of the cash gain will go to middle-income families who are not affected by the benefits trap.

So either a minimum wage does little harm, but little good; or it risks harming the very poorest, those with no job at all, while damaging the overall economy. The Government's decision to set a flat rate for the whole country and all economic sectors suggests that it would prefer a rate too low to make an impact on the real world of work. The ancestors may not be so easily appeased. It was unwise to disturb their sleep.

## OPEN SEASON

Hunt supporters must deploy calm reason and compromise

Twenty years ago the Commons chose to decriminalise an activity which was then offensive to many but which, as legislators realised, was even more offensive to liberal sentiment to ban. Yesterday's release of papers from the Public Record Office reminds us how hard it is now to imagine a Britain where homosexual acts between consenting men in private made convicts of the otherwise law-abiding. Those MPs who were "brave" enough to vote for tolerance, with their consciences and contrary to many of their constituents' views, were discharging the proper duty of parliamentarians.

Today the Commons will vote to ban the actions of another unpopular minority, whose recreation, according to liberal sentiment, ought not to be made illegal. Yet Michael Foster's Wild Animals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is certain to secure an overwhelming majority. Although it will not become law in this Parliamentary session, the will of the Commons is unlikely to be long frustrated.

The arguments have become bitter on both sides. However strongly any individual may object to another taking pleasure in hunting wild creatures, fox and stag hunting can be vigorously defended as a leisure pursuit which a free society should tolerate, as an intimate part of rural life, as a source of employment and as the most effective form of conservation. Those arguments do not seem to have weighed with the majority of MPs, or Britain's predominantly urban population, and defenders of hunting should treat the view of the majority with something of the respect they rightly demand for their own case. Threats of civil disobedience are ill-judged and inappropriate.

Although today's vote will create a momentum for abolition, space has been created for a longer debate during which a

thoughtful defence of hunting can be rehearsed. Supporters of hunting owe Tony Blair a small, but significant, debt. Although they may curse his skill as an Opposition Leader, which led to a Commons majority against them, they should acknowledge the wisdom he has shown as Prime Minister in managing that majority to allow hunt supporters a longer opportunity to be heard.

Given time, the case for hunting can make converts. Former officers in the League Against Cruel Sports, including a past executive director, James Barrington, resigned from the organisation because close engagement with argument convinced them that a ban on foxhunting would not be in the interest of foxes. Hunting kills only a small proportion of the number of foxes culled every year, fewer than those controlled by the arguably crueler methods of digging out and of shooting which more often maim than kills. If hunting were banned the number of foxes and deer killed would probably rise and some landowners may be tempted to use the unarguably crueler methods of gassing or poisoning. The recent mass culling of stags in the Quantocks is a portent of what may await the fox population.

The deployment of logic by supporters of hunting should be matched by a sensitivity to the concerns of their honest opponents. The pro-hunting lobby, rightly, asks for urban Britain to respect the settled habits of countrymen, but those who hunt should appreciate the strength of genuine revulsion inspired by some of hunting's excesses. A willingness to compromise, to explore how habits might be changed and legislation framed in the best interests of animal and man, may lead to a better Bill in a future session. Today strong feelings will have an outlet. In the months to come there must be hard thinking from open minds.

## HAGUE'S GENDER GAP

Women need a greater say in the Tory party

The hats may have gone but the prejudices live on. At the Conservative Women's Conference yesterday, there was at best ambivalence about getting more of their ranks into Parliament. The younger ones are keen. But many older women, who dominate Tory selection committees, do not seem to care what sex their candidate is, as long as he has a wife, good taste in ties and a sonorous voice.

All had to face the fact that the Tories returned as few women at the last election as they did in 1931, the year the conference first met; and that while women have increased their representation in every other area of society, in the Conservative Party they have not. If it were a private club, this might not matter. But it is an institution which seeks support from the public; and it must wonder if women voters, who make up 52 per cent of the electorate, like what they see.

While women used to vote Tory in far greater numbers than men (mainly because they live longer, and the old are more conservative), the "gender gap" snapped shut on May 1. Labour made inroads particularly with young women, who preferred Labour to the Tories by a margin of 29 points, compared with a 15-point lead among men of the same age.

If women had always voted the same way as men, Britain would have had many more Labour governments. The gender gap is therefore crucial to the Tories. Yet there was little sign from members attending yes-

terday that the party understands what needs to be done to bring women back. Quotas were derided as patronising; that may be so but, as Labour proved, a single election in which some women are "patronised" will have substantial long-term effects in female representation. The women's conference will continue after the party reforms, even though it serves to emphasise their separation from the mainstream. No place will be reserved for a women's representative on the party's management board where the real business will be done. Meanwhile, the only member who dared to bring a child was hissed when she pointed out how useful a crèche would have been.

More than two thirds of women work, and the proportion is rising fast. Although women share many political concerns equally with men, there are others that affect them disproportionately. Labour's childcare plans, for instance, are a sensible, unideological and economically efficient policy that will go down particularly well with mothers. So why, in 18 years, did the Conservatives do so little? Partly because of their ambivalence about working women; but also because women play such a small role in the counsels of their party.

Even now, William Hague's kitchen cabinet is entirely male. Just one woman, Gillian Shephard, sits in the Shadow Cabinet, and she seems keen to bow out. Action is needed if the Tories are to woo women back.

## Candidate choice blights the Tories

From Mr John de Courcy Ling

Sir, The letters (November 25) of Mrs Georgiana Hibberd and Mr Chris Metz from Winchester deserve the attention of Lord Freeman, the recently appointed vice-chairman in charge of parliamentary candidates at Conservative Central Office.

Mrs Hibberd says that "it is all very well for a right-wing party, in cahoots with local reactionaries, to find seats for their placemen." The problem is not confined to Winchester. Since Margaret Thatcher replaced Edward Heath as party leader in early 1976 there was a concerted movement to show that a majority of the general public disapproved of a great many things, including the Conservative Party, homosexual acts, tripe and black pudding, smoking, immigration, Radio 3 and, very likely, the colour of my front door.

If all these, and more, are to be made criminal because a majority doesn't like them, we shall all be in jail before long.

Yours very truly,  
JAMES MCFARLANE,  
24 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire.  
james@jimmac.demon.co.uk  
November 21.

From Mr Dan Norris,  
MP for Walsley (Labour)

Sir, The hunting debate is often painted as pitting town against country: urban dwellers don't understand country ways, the argument goes, and resistance to hunting is focused in towns and cities. As a representative of a semi-rural constituency in northeast Somerset this viewpoint has long intrigued me.

Over 80 per cent of the 700 letters I've received about hunting over the past months have been sent by constituents urging me to back Michael Foster's Bill this Friday. Yet semi-rural Walsley includes parts of Bristol, as well as the towns of Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Radstock; my constituents are divided roughly equally between "urban" and "rural" areas.

Having analysed the sources of these letters I am interested to discover that opposition to hunting with dogs is even greater in the rural parts of this constituency than in the towns. Those who portray opposition to hunting as an invasion of the countryside by unsympathetic townies would do well to note that in Somerset at least, this argument, appears invalid.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DE COURCY LING,  
Lamb House,  
Bladon, Woodstock, Oxfordshire.  
November 25.

## Winchester result

From Mr P. J. V. Tuks

Sir, When visiting the Winchester constituency last week (letters, November 22 and 25), I found there was a warm appreciation for the way in which the Liberal Democrats are providing constructive opposition in Parliament.

Many recognise that vigorous opposition to that with which you disagree and fighting for what you feel strongly about is so much more effective if you are prepared to support measures with which you broadly agree. It is heartening that the electorate has grown tired of adversarial politics.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER TUKE (Chairman,  
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Mill Stream, East Harting,  
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From Ms Suzanne Avery

Sir, It is ridiculous to claim (letter, November 25) that the Conservative candidate's defeat in the Winchester by-election was due to the party's Euroscepticism: the Euro Conservative candidate polled a mere 40 votes.

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The Orchard,  
Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire.  
November 25.

## Radio for children

From Mr Stephen Keeler

Sir, There is a gaping hole in the planning system which contributes to the pressure to use more countryside for building new houses (letters, November 20). As a (relatively new) local councillor engaged in the review of our local plan, I am struck by a council's inability to insist on a minimum density for new developments.

If the council allocates a site for housing, suggesting that it would be suitable for 50 houses, a developer can propose a development of only 30 houses. The council is powerless to prevent this (in sharp contrast to its powers to prevent developments of an excessive density compared to the surrounding area). Sooner or later, it will have to find another site to make up the shortfall.

With two or three-bedroom houses being the greatest housing need in the South East, and developers keenest on

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From Mrs Kathleen M. Johnson

Sir, If, as reported on November 25, the Church of England is considering plans to repay student loans taken out by its newly ordained priests, perhaps they should think back a bit.

Twenty-six years ago, when my husband was accepted for training for the Anglican priesthood, we were advised by the diocesan secretary to sell our house and be prepared for all the proceeds to go towards the support of me and our baby during the three years of his training. This is exactly what happened and my husband was ordained utterly broke but with no

## Red in tooth and claw runs the great foxhunting debate

From Mr James McFarlane

Sir, You report today that more than two thirds of the general public oppose hunting with dogs (see also letters, November 26). True or not, it is an irrelevance.

The general public is not damaged by hunting: nobody is compelled to hunt, nor are the rights of those who do, like me, don't hunt, infringed by those who do. It is hard to see what most people know of the matter or how it is their business to intervene.

We are on dangerous ground if we begin to think that the views of casual majorities should be decisive in the framing of criminal legislation. Opinion polls will show that a majority of the general public disapproves of a great many things, including the Conservative Party, homosexual acts, tripe and black pudding, smoking, immigration, Radio 3 and, very likely, the colour of my front door.

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From Mr Steven Parker

Sir, Our farming cousins' unwillingness to accept towline intervention in the great hunting debate is matched only by their willingness to accept towline intervention in EU subsidies.

Is it not time to put an end to this cruel and unnecessary pursuit of my income?

Yours faithfully,  
STEVEN PARKER,  
5 The Meadow,  
Blackheath, SE3.  
November 27.

From the Chairman of the Union of Country Sports Workers

Sir, Michael Foster's Bill threatens 15,200 jobs to which there may prove to be no alternatives in the countryside. This union, which represents hunting employees and gamekeepers, ghillies and others whose jobs are the next target for the advancing animal rights agenda, hopes that the Commons will reject it.

Anti-hunting campaigners glibly argue that recreational riding and draghunting will save the jobs. The Masters of Draghounds Association disagrees. Hunts cannot unilaterally switch to draghunting. Only farmers can decide who has a good enough reason to ride across their land, and for most farmers, sport riding without pest control and other services from hunts is not attractive. Riding schools and other recreational riding businesses are already in recession.

We do not say that employment considerations should overrule animal welfare. Like two former chiefs of the League Against Cruel Sports, we believe that wildlife such as foxes will be worse off after a hunting ban, not better off, because less regulated pest-control methods will be used instead.

It would be unforgivable for MPs to vote 15,000 jobs away in a mistaken gesture on animal welfare. Coming just days after the Prime Minister went to Luxembourg to persuade other European governments to protect jobs more zealously, it would be ironic, too.

Yours sincerely,  
J. FRETWELL,  
Chairman,  
Union of Country Sports Workers,  
PO Box 43, Towcester,  
Northamptonshire NN12 7ZB.  
November 25.

From Mr Geoff Greaves

Sir, Mr Neil Moore (letter, November 26) objects to those who disapprove of something imposing their views through legislation, in this case to stop

hunting animals with hounds. "An arrogant, even totalitarian attitude," he says.

I've no doubt that if the moral majority had not had their democratic way in the past, a cruel minority would have continued with cockfighting, bearbaiting or even sending children up chimneys.

These reforms cost jobs and ended traditions too. Fortunately Parliament usually reflects public opinion — albeit sometimes, as in this case, belatedly.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFF GREAVES,  
16 Causewayhead,  
Penzance, Cornwall.  
November 26.

From Mrs Anstice Baring

Sir, I believe that Michael Foster, sponsor of the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is a coarse fisherman. I've never wanted to stop anyone fishing, but if his Bill becomes law, does he think his own sport will remain immune?

Yours truly,  
ANSTICE BARING,  
Ravenscourt House,  
20 Ravenscourt Park, W6.  
November 26.

From Mr R. M. Stephenson

Sir, Although many would agree with Lord Renton (letter, November 26) that the actual cause of death in foxhunting is rather more humane than other means, it is the chase prior to the fox's death which is the cruellest part of the hunt. By the time the hounds have caught the fox it may have had to endure an exhausting and wholly unnatural flight of many miles.

If, as they claim, many foxhunters are primarily concerned with the quickest and least cruel form of culling they could perhaps donate the money spent on keeping dogs, horses, etc. to research into an effective poison for foxes.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
MATTHEW STEPHENSON,  
31 Leigham Hall,  
Leigham Avenue, SW16.  
m.stephenson@nmsi.ac.uk  
November 26.

From Mrs Nicola Scurr

Sir, The only reason people hunt foxes with dogs is for the fun of it.

Yours faithfully,  
NICOLA SCURR,  
5 Baintel Gate, SW1.  
November 26.

## Long road home

From Mr James Ingram

Sir, Mr William Fisher (letter, November 25) is mistaken when he says that the street number and postcode alone will tell a postman the exact destination of a letter.

I have recently written some software to generate complete addresses from that information, and there are many postcodes which do not represent just a single street — therefore a street number and a postcode may still refer to more than one property (albeit rarely).

Yours,  
JAMES INGRAM,  
30c Deronda Road, SE24.  
james@one-ten.com  
November 25.

From Mrs Poppet Coddington

Sir, Bully for Mr William Fisher, who can put 19 W9 IAZ on his letters.

Whilst converting this barn our address was The Caravan with three whippets. Down the muddy track past the back drive of Lower Lyde Farm House. No problems with deliveries and probably faster than Cod. HRI 3AQ.

Yours faithfully,  
POPPET CODDINGTON,  
Lyde Barn,  
Lower Lyde,  
Hereford, Herefordshire HRI 3AQ.  
November 25.

## Noises off

From Mr Thom Petty

Sir, Judy Fitton (letter, November 26) may like to know that we have just performed Arnold's *Grand, Grand Overture*, complete with the school's Senior Management Sweeper Ensemble.

During a rehearsal we were approached by an irate school cleaner demanding the immediate return of his vacuum machine.

Yours faithfully,  
THOM PETTY  
(Principal, organ section),  
King's School,  
Cumberland Street,  
Macclesfield, Cheshire.  
November 26.

From Mr A. C. Lewin

Sir, Judging from the level of audience participation I have noticed at recent concerts, perhaps one of our celebrated composers could be encouraged to write a Concerto for Ear, Nose and Throat.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN LEWIN,  
3 Bourne End Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex.  
November 26.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



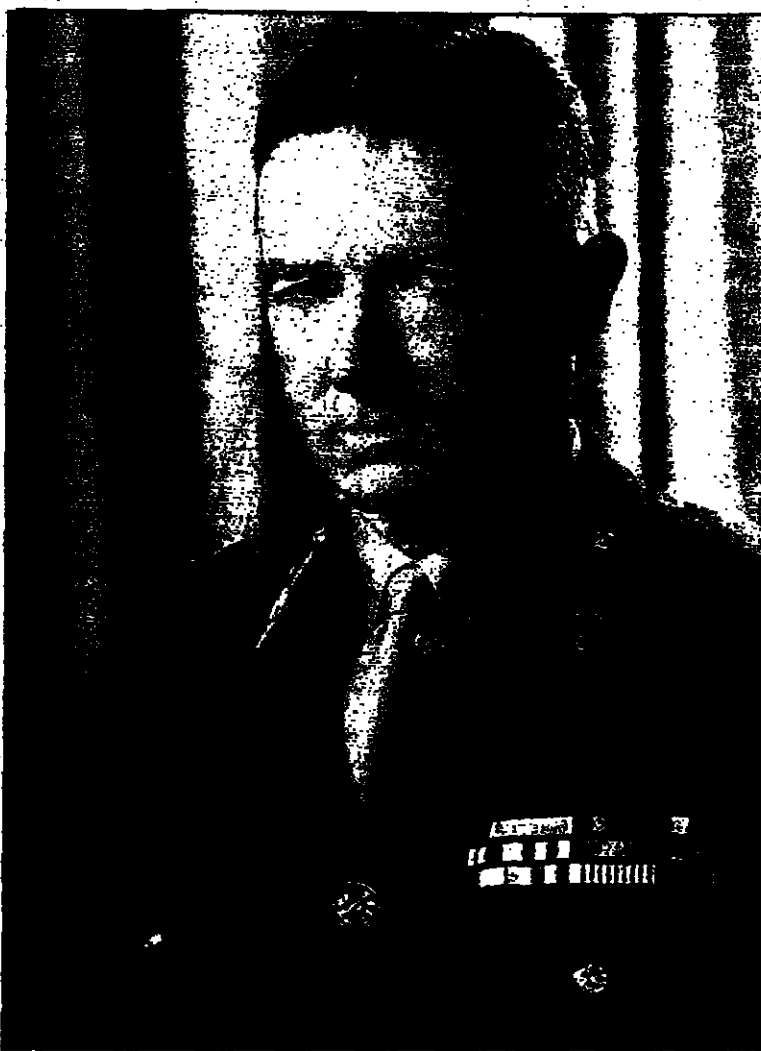




OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL IAN CAMPBELL

Major-General Ian Campbell, CBE, DSO and bar, Commandant of the Royal Australian Military College, Duntroon, 1954-57, died on October 31 aged 77. He was born in New South Wales on March 23 1920.



Ian Campbell won two DSOs in the first six months of 1941: the first at Bardia during Wavell's Western Desert offensive against the Italians, the second for the successful defence of Rethymon airfield on Crete against the overwhelming German parachute invasion of the island, which ended in the surrender of his mixed Australian and Cretan force owing to the order for the evacuation of the island never reaching him. He and his Australian men spent the next four years as prisoners of war in Germany. It was little comfort to them that Hitler never authorised another major parachute descent after the losses sustained on Crete.

At Bardia in January, Campbell was the Brigade Major of 16th Australian Infantry Brigade in the 6th Australian Division, when it was ordered to breach the strong perimeter defences of the fortress after the Italian defeat at the battle of Sidi Barrani a few weeks earlier. He was not only the principal planner of the assault, but personally carried out the vital night patrols across the desert to mark, under the very noses of the Italians, the assault troops' start-line and axis of advance to the point selected for breaching. His first DSO came as a reward for his part in the fall of the fortress and the capture of 40,000 Italian prisoners.

Three weeks later his brigade successfully repeated the operation at Tobruk. The continuing advance westwards, 6th Australian Division took Benghazi while 7th Armoured Division cut the coast road south of the city and put the rest of the Italian 10th Army "in the bag" at the decisive battle of Beda Fomm. No sooner was the Cyrenaican campaign won than 6th Australian Division was on its way to Greece and Campbell was promoted to command 2nd/1st Australian Infantry Battalion in 16th Brigade.

After the British withdrawal from the Aliakmon Line in Greece and the evacuation to Crete, Campbell was given command of the Australian,

British and Greek (Cretan) troops holding the Rethymon airfield. He had about three weeks to establish a close rapport with his three Cretan battalions, the local Cretan village mayors and the people of the Rethymon district, and to organise its defences.

The main German parachute assault on Crete started early on May 20, but the landings at Rethymon did not begin until the late afternoon. These were by 1,600 paratroopers of Colonel Sturm's para regiment, many of whom were shot on their way down. Colonel Sturm and his staff were captured on landing, and during the next ten days

fighting, Campbell's men took 529 paratroop prisoners and killed another 900 of Sturm's assault force.

Things had not gone so well in the west, where the loss of Malame airfield enabled the Germans to land major reinforcements. The British evacuation was ordered on May 27, but by then Campbell's force had been cut off and orders to withdraw to the south coast did not reach him.

At 8.15am on May 30, Campbell walked down onto the airfield with a white towel on a stick and surrendered his force as the German tanks approached from the west. No one could

have done more without useless loss of Australian and Cretan life. News of his second DSO reached him in a German prison camp, and the Greek Government appointed him a Knight Commander of the Royal Greek Order of the Phoenix. A plaza, an avenue and a park in Rethymon are named after him.

Ian Ross Campbell was the younger son of a Sydney barrister. He was educated at Scots College, Sydney, and the Royal Military College, Duntroon, where he won the Sword of Honour, which is now carried by his grandson.

Commissioned in 1923, he saw service in India with Royal Scots Fusiliers at Sialkot and on the North West Frontier, including the Khyber Pass. Returning to Australia in 1927, he spent seven years with the Sydney University Regiment and was appointed honorary ADC to the Governor of New South Wales. In 1936, he came to England for the first time, where he went to the Staff College, Camberley.

At the outbreak of war, he was appointed Brigade Major of 16th Australian Brigade. When he returned to Australia after the war, his four years in prison camps affected him neither professionally nor personally. He was given a series of key military appointments: deputy adjutant general, largely responsible for demobilisation of wartime units and reorganisation of the regular force; director of the Army training component in Japan and Korea during the Korean War; commandant of the Australian Staff College; and finally Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon. In 1954 he was appointed CBE.

Retiring from the Army in 1957, he spent ten years in industry. His experience in prison camps had made him a great admirer of the Red Cross, and so for the following decade he worked on a voluntary basis as chairman of the New South Wales division of the Red Cross. And in 1994 the Returned Services League of Australia made him honorary vice-chairman for life. He remained the devoted servant of the Queen, Australia and the Australian Army.

In 1927 he married Patricia Allison Russell, who died in 1961. They had one daughter. His second marriage was dissolved after two years, and in 1967 he married Irene Cardamatis, who died in 1996.

JIM MILLER

Jim Miller, industrialist, salmon fisherman and campaigner against European integration, died on November 12 aged 73. He was born on June 19, 1924.



AS WELL as being a chartered engineer and a successful company executive, Jim Miller was involved in many business associations, and spent much of his time warning colleagues that their interests would not be served by submitting to plans for European harmonisation. He was also a notable fisherman and conservationist, who did much to maintain and improve the quality of salmon fishing in the Borders.

James Derrick Miller was born into a mining family in South Yorkshire. After grammar school he won a state scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge, in 1942 to read natural sciences. However, he left Cambridge after a year and volunteered for the Navy, and served out the war doing research at the Royal Naval Signals School.

In 1945, with vast numbers of people wishing to go back up to Cambridge, he chose instead to go to Sheffield University, where he took a degree in mechanical engineering. After some placements as a graduate trainee, he moved south to the Midlands to join AIC, which was then the leading firm of management consultants in the area. He soon established a reputation for incisive and logical thinking, backed by determined implementation.

In 1963 a consultancy assignment at the Harris & Sheldon Group, a Midlands conglomerate, led to his being offered the job of chief executive at the age of 39. He subsequently became executive chairman in 1965, remaining in that job until his death. In 1981 he was in the vanguard of the management buyout movement when he and his co-directors converted Harris

& Sheldon to a private company.

Miller was also chairman of two other companies, Antler plc until 1989, and Wassall plc. However, since he was an enthusiastic fisherman, the company that gave him the most fun was Hardy's, the leading fishing-tackle manufacturer, which he bought in 1967, when the business was experiencing difficulties. He managed to improve Hardy's position, and today it is flourishing again. The salmon fishing which was acquired as an adjunct of the company — including the famous Junction Pool beat on the Tweed — gave great pleasure to him, his family and many guests, who included figures from the sporting and business worlds such as Jim Slater, Ian Botham and Jack Charlton.

As a passionate believer in conservation, Miller was among the leaders of the movement to buy out salmon fishing netmen in the estuaries of the Tay and the Tweed, and he was perhaps the first to encourage the return of out-of-condition autumn fish to the rivers to conserve stocks — a practice that is becoming widespread.

He was an instinctive believer in free markets, and a supporter from the first of the Institute of Economic Affairs. The almost perfect coincidence of names of his company Harris & Sheldon with Ralph Harris and Arthur Sheldon was a longstanding joke between them.

Miller was an active supporter of the Conservative Party, although from the 1960s he was a constant and vociferous opponent of British membership of the Common Market and then of the European Union. He spoke often and vehemently against what he saw as the progressive erosion of Parliament's power to govern, and was a private sponsor of many of the different groups that have campaigned against it, including the European Research Group, the Bruges Group and the European Foundation. In his last days he was pleased that the new Conservative leader — who had attended the same school in Yorkshire — had taken a firm stand against total monetary integration.

He married Florence Elliott in 1947. She survives him, along with their daughter and two sons.

MOHAMMAD-ALI JAMALZADEH

Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh, Iranian writer and political thinker, died in Geneva on November 8, aged 105. He was born in Isfahan on January 13, 1922.

THOUGH he dismissed the claim, Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh was often described as "the father of modern Persian fiction". He certainly made a success of the genre, and his style was widely emulated. He addressed himself to the daily problems of the urban poor and the peasantry, and he avoided the use of complex phrases borrowed from the Azerbaijani Turkish of the Caucasus, prevalent among the aristocratic writers of his time, when simple Persian equivalents were available.

He was a prominent activist in the parliamentary reform movement of the first two decades of this century, despite his youth. This was largely due to the execution of his father by the penultimate, Russian-backed, Qajar monarch, Shah, Mohammad-Ali, in the civil war of 1905-11.

Almost all his adult life he spent in Europe. Jamalzadeh's father was the influential Shia cleric of Isfahan, Jamal-ed-Din, Hama-dani, who — unimaginably nowadays — sent his son to a Jesuit school in Beirut and agitated for a liberal constitution. In 1910 Jamalzadeh went to Paris, and four years later he obtained a degree in law from the University of Dijon, and married his first wife, Josephine, a Swiss subject. In 1915, while several regions of neutral Iran were occupied by Russia, Britain and Ottoman Turkey, Jamalzadeh returned to the western city of Kermanshah and formed a small army of Kurds to fight the allies, but he was soon forced to abandon the venture and went to Berlin at the start of his permanent settlement in Europe.

In the German capital he fell under the influence of such Iranian intellectuals as Hassan Taghizadeh, a future leader of the Senate in Teheran under the last Shah, and concluded that one of the reasons for the widespread illiteracy of his fellow country-



men was the preference of their educated elite to write only for one another, "whereas in the civilised countries, even great thinkers try to write their works in as simple a language as possible". The result was a series of innovative short stories published by Taghizadeh in his emigre magazine *Kaveh*, which eventually formed Jamalzadeh's first book, *Yekki Bood, Yekki Naheed* ("One Person Was, One Person Was Not"), the title being the traditional opening of Persian

fairytale. While some critics in Iran denounced the conversational style as a degradation of literary tradition, others hailed it as the beginning of a new era. Jamalzadeh was now launched on his prolific career as a writer of short stories, novels, political tracts and histories.

For many years, Jamalzadeh earned his living as a teacher of Persian literature to foreign students, and as Iran's representative to the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. He visited Tehran regularly, but never seriously considered a political career there.

A blemish on his last decade was remarks in support of the Islamic revolution of 1979, which saddened many of his liberal admirers; but he remained otherwise in charge of his mind to the last. A few months ago in his Geneva nursing home, he complained to a visitor that death had kept him waiting too long. "Why am I not dying?" he asked. "All have gone and I'm still here. I no longer understand people!" His two wives predeceased him.

SHAKE KEANE

Shake Keane, jazz trumpeter and poet, died in Bergen, Norway, on November 10 aged 70. He was born in St Vincent, West Indies, on May 30, 1927.



NOT only was Shake Keane the most brilliant trumpeter and flugelhorn player of his generation of London-based West Indian musicians, he was also a prize-winning poet and an educator. For British jazz his importance began with his associations in the early 1960s with the alto saxophonist Joe Harriott, with whom he pioneered a highly original and idiosyncratic brand of free improvisation, and with the pianist Michael Garrick, for whom Keane was an enthusiastic collaborator in the "Poetry and Jazz" movement.

By the mid 1960s Keane's formidable abilities as a trumpeter competent in many styles had taken him into the world of commercial recording. He cut three albums of pop songs and ballads, accompanied by Ivor Raymonde's orchestra and the Keating Sound, before joining Kurt Edelhagen's German Radio Orchestra. Among his final jazz recordings were the LPs *Sax No End* and *Out of the Folk Bag*, cut in Cologne by the Kenny Clarke/Francy Boland Band in 1967. Here Keane found himself alongside the American expatriates Kenny Bailey and Miles Suleman, and the Scottish trumpeter Jimmy Deuchar, probably the most accomplished trumpet section in jazz at the time, in what was universally regarded as Europe's leading big band.

There were early signs that Ellsworth McGranahan Keane, one of seven children, would become a musician, but

he came to jazz relatively late. He had music lessons from his father, playing in public from a young age and leading his first band soon after his father's death in 1940, but the music he grew up playing was the West Indian popular music of the day. He was equally involved in the study of literature, acquiring his nickname as a corruption of "Shakespeare" on account of his abilities as a poet. He worked as a teacher before coming to London in 1952, where he read English at London University.

As a student he financed himself by playing the trumpet. Mamboes and calypsos, he told a friend, were preferable to manual labour, despite the frilly shirts and maracas. Keane was, however, so outstanding a musician that he was soon in demand in a variety of styles, and he began recording under his own name as early as 1954, when he cut his first disc, *Trumpet Highlife*.

The drummer there was the mercurial Phil Seaman, who shared both Keane's precocious talents as an instrumentalist and a self-destructive compulsion. Seaman's life was destroyed by drugs; Keane's was threatened by an inner restlessness that was apparent throughout his life. Although Keane worked with several musicians whose

main interest was jazz, he met most of them playing other styles of music — from Ghanaian highlife and Nigerian drumming to his native calypso — and it took a meeting with the bassist Coleridge Goode to introduce Keane to jazz. Through Goode he joined Joe Harriott's band, although coincidentally he had already interviewed Harriott for the BBC World Service's *Caribbean Voices* programme, on which he worked by virtue of his reputation as a poet.

Harriott's Quintet offered Keane a musical challenge equal to his abilities and formidable intelligence, while in Michael Garrick's group he briefly found the ideal union of poetry and music. He played in both bands until 1965, when he moved to Germany.

In 1972 he returned to St Vincent and, having been one of his island's principal cultural exports, he was given a post in the Department of Culture. Neither this nor a subsequent return to teaching lasted long, although he produced his best-known poetry during the late 1970s. In 1980 he moved to the United States, settling in Brooklyn, where he worked inconspicuously in the local West Indian community. For a decade he barely touched flugelhorn, until he returned successfully to playing in 1989 in the Caribbean and in Britain.

He played very little after that, occasionally dusting off his horns for an overseas trip, especially to Norway, where his friend Erik Bye encouraged him to work from time to time. He was on just such a visit, to appear at a fund-raising event for cancer relief, when his own undiagnosed cancer finally surfaced.

Shake Keane is survived by three sons.

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NO CRITICISM OF ART

NEW NAZI DECREE

"STRENGTH THROUGH JOY"

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT  
BERLIN, Nov. 27

Dr. Goebbels, the Propaganda Minister, announced at the Chamber of Culture that he had issued instructions forbidding to-day criticism of works of art, literature, music, and drama. The veto extends also to State stage, cinema and concert performances and the artists engaged. The place of criticism is to be taken by objective analysis and description. It is understood that the commentator will not be permitted to say that a work of art or a performance is either good or bad.

With this order Dr. Goebbels storms the last refuge of free opinion in Germany. It has, however, been a narrow one for some time past, critics having learned that they are not free to write on works of art without reference to the political, cultural, and racial values of National Socialism.

The Chamber of Culture held its stinging jointly with representatives of the "Strength through joy" organization of the Labour Front, as a practical expression of the National-Socialist idea, that art should derive its

ON THIS DAY

November 28, 1936

"Art," said Goebbels in 1936, "would suffer no loss by the disappearance of the critic."

For the bitter anti-Semite, culture must be the expression of National-Socialist values.

Inspiration from the national ideals and characteristics, and exist not for art's sake, but to serve the interests of State and nation.

"In a time such as ours (Dr. Goebbels said) which demands the utmost energy, endurance, and nerve. It is the special mission of the artist tirelessly to communicate to the nation strength through joy." He then referred to the difficulties in the way of a unified, cultural-political line, as he called it, and in this connection concentrated on artistic criticism, which in spite of all efforts still bore characteristics of the liberalistic-Jewish period.

"The presumptuous know-betters," he said,

"who to-day through eternal grumbling persecute the up-building of our cultural and artistic life with their unharmonious accompaniment are only the hidden successors of this Jewish anarchy of criticism." Every effort has been made to get them to reform, Dr. Goebbels adds, but in vain.

YOUNGSTERS' CRITICISM

Dr. Goebbels then announced his prohibition. It did not mean, he said, the suppression of freedom of opinion, but only those might publish their opinions who had a free opinion of their own and were qualified by their knowledge, accomplishments, and abilities to sit in judgment on others who appealed to the public with imaginative work.

"Recently in Berlin we have seen how 22-year-old youngsters have drawn swords against accomplished artists 40 or 50 years of age and famous throughout the world, without showing a sign of expert knowledge in their criticisms." They ought to take as a first exercise the description of a work of art.

It could not be tolerated that, while in everything else the Führer's great constructive work was warmly supported by public opinion, artists of all people should be the last victims of free criticism.

For the rest, said Dr. Goebbels, art would suffer no loss by the disappearance of the critic.







# THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

## BZW sale leaves Barclays with £1bn hangover



Taylor: £150m for CSFB

By Jason Nisse

BARCLAYS has been forced to retain BZW's exposure to a £1 billion legal action under the terms of the £100 million sale of the securities operation to CSFB, the Swiss broker.

The case arises from BZW's work for British & Commonwealth Holdings, the finance group that crashed in 1990 when it bought Atlantic Computers, the leasing group, two years prior to that.

Earlier this month CSFB agreed to pay £100 million for BZW, though Martin Taylor, Barclays chief executive, allowed CSFB to keep £150 million of capital which Barclays had put into the broking operation.

Meanwhile, talks on the sale of NatWest Markets, the broking side of NatWest Group, to Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, are said to be close to conclusion, with a £200 million deal expected to be announced as early as today.

The Atlantic Computers action, which involves a whole raft of City advisers, accountants, lawyers and former directors of B&C, is not due to come to court before 2000.

BZW advised B&C on the £550 million deal to buy Atlantic, which specialised in complex computer leases, many of which were found to be unviable after B&C bought the group.

Atlantic went into administration on Easter Sunday 1990, dragging B&C down with it a few weeks later in one of the biggest financial collapses in British history. The running of both Atlantic and B&C have been investigated by the Department of Trade & Industry, which recommended that a number of B&C directors were disqualified.

John Gunn, the former chairman of B&C, has vowed to fight the disqualification proceedings and continues working in the City. However, the cloud over him prevented Mr Gunn joining the board of Chelsea Village, the AIM-listed group that owns Chelsea, the Premiership football club.

The BZW director who led the team that advised B&C has long since left the bank. Richard Heley joined Hill Samuel in the early 1990s and is now working at Charterhouse, the merchant bank. He is expected to be a key witness if the case comes to court.

John Soden, a partner at Price Waterhouse and administrator of

Atlantic, said the case involved more than 30 parties in a myriad of cross action with the total liabilities now standing at more than £1 billion. BZW is one of the largest defendants in the case and its liability, if proven, could be more than £200 million.

The Atlantic case follows HSBC Holdings being forced to pay £176 million to the creditors of B&C in an action that resulted from its purchase of Midland Bank.

Samuel Montagu, the merchant banking arm of Midland, has advised Quadrex, a financial services group, on a deal with B&C.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES			
FTSE 100	4888.0	(-2.2)	
Yield	3.35%		
FTSE All share	2308.97	(+0.07)	
Nikkei	16603.20	(+507.65)	
New York			Closed
Dow Jones			
S&P Composite			
US RATE			
Federal Funds	Closed	(7.75%)	
Long Bond		(101%)	
Yield		(6.05%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-month Interbank	7 1/8	(7 1/8%)	
Life long gilt			
future (Dec)	118 1/2	(118 1/2%)	
STERLING			
New York	Closed	(1.6735)	
London			
DM	1.6745	(1.6710)	
FF	2.9541	(2.9536)	
FF	9.8854	(9.8409)	
SP	2.3836	(2.3696)	
Yen	212.61	(212.64)	
£ Index	104.4	(104.1)	
DOLLAR			
London	Closed	(1.7595)	
DM		(5.9025)	
FF		(1.4188)	
Yen		(127.03)	
£ Index	107.2	(107.2)	
Tokyo close Yen	127.10		
NORTH SEA OIL			
Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$18.70	(\$18.50)	
GOLD			
London close	\$296.00	(\$296.55)	
* denotes midday trading price			

## Brown seeks US support for EMU

FROM OLIVER AUGUST  
IN NEW YORK

GORDON BROWN will make his first trip to Wall Street as Chancellor next month in an attempt to win support from the New York financial community for his plans to take Britain into EMU.

Mr Brown is aiming to squash growing scepticism in some parts of the American business community that could undermine the sterling exchange rate in the run up to EMU entry.

In a speech to the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York next Friday he will outline "the Government's preparations for EMU and the start of a single currency within the European Union".

UK officials in New York said the attitude of most US businessmen to EMU was positive, but they have been shaken by a number of attacks on the single currency in recent weeks. The Wall Street visit by Mr Brown is aimed at "nipping American Euro-scepticism in the butt".

Martin Feldstein, a Professor of Economics at Harvard, said in the latest issue of the influential *Foreign Affairs* periodical, that monetary and political union would make another "war" in Europe more likely, not less. He wrote: "The American experience with the secession of the South may contain some lessons about the danger of a treaty or constitution that has no exits."

Wall Street has for years been encouraging Europe to proceed with monetary union. The major US banks expected that EMU will give them new opportunities to earn to fees.

To gain prime time television coverage of the visit, top US spin doctors will advise Mr Brown's advisers, among them Burton Markstetter, a Wall Street public relations company.

## DTI doubted Mayhew on Guinness evidence

By Paul Durman

INSPECTORS for the Department of Trade and Industry investigating Guinness's takeover of Distillers did not believe some of the evidence they received from David Mayhew, a senior partner in Cazenove, the most blue-blooded of City stockbrokers.

In the much-delayed report into Guinness's £2.6 billion takeover of Distillers in 1986, released yesterday, David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt also question Mr Mayhew's judgment in tactics he used to help Guinness to defeat Argyle, the rival bidder in the takeover battle.

This forms part of the DTI inspectors' damning indictment of the integrity of the City. In the report, which is much watered down from interim drafts that circulated the City a few years ago, the inspectors say these features "shine disturbingly through": "Firstly, the cynical disregard

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of laws and regulations; secondly, the cavalier misuse of company moneys; thirdly, a contempt for truth and common honesty; all these in a part of the City which was thought respectable."

In taking evidence, the inspectors "were faced constantly with untruthful, incomplete and sharply conflicting testimony".

The evidence of Mr Mayhew, who once faced a criminal prosecution for his role in the Guinness affair, is bought into question over the extent of Cazenove's freedom to buy £25 million of Guinness shares on behalf of J Rothschild Holdings, an investment firm headed by Lord Rothschild. The inspectors say the account from Rothschild's executives "is closer to the true picture".

"Cazenove were in practice managers of a formidable reserve of purchase power entrusted to them by JRH," the report says. JRH spent £28.7 million on Guinness shares

during the course of the bid, but was not promised the indemnities or success fees that were part of the illegal support operation of the Guinness share price. The payment of indemnities led to the conviction of Gerald Ronson, one of the largest of Guinness's supporters, along with Ernest Saunders, the company's former chief executive. Jack Lyons and Anthony Parnes, two of the advisers who helped it up.

The share prices of Guinness and Argyle were vital to their hopes of success because shares formed a large part of the consideration they were offering to shareholders in Distillers.

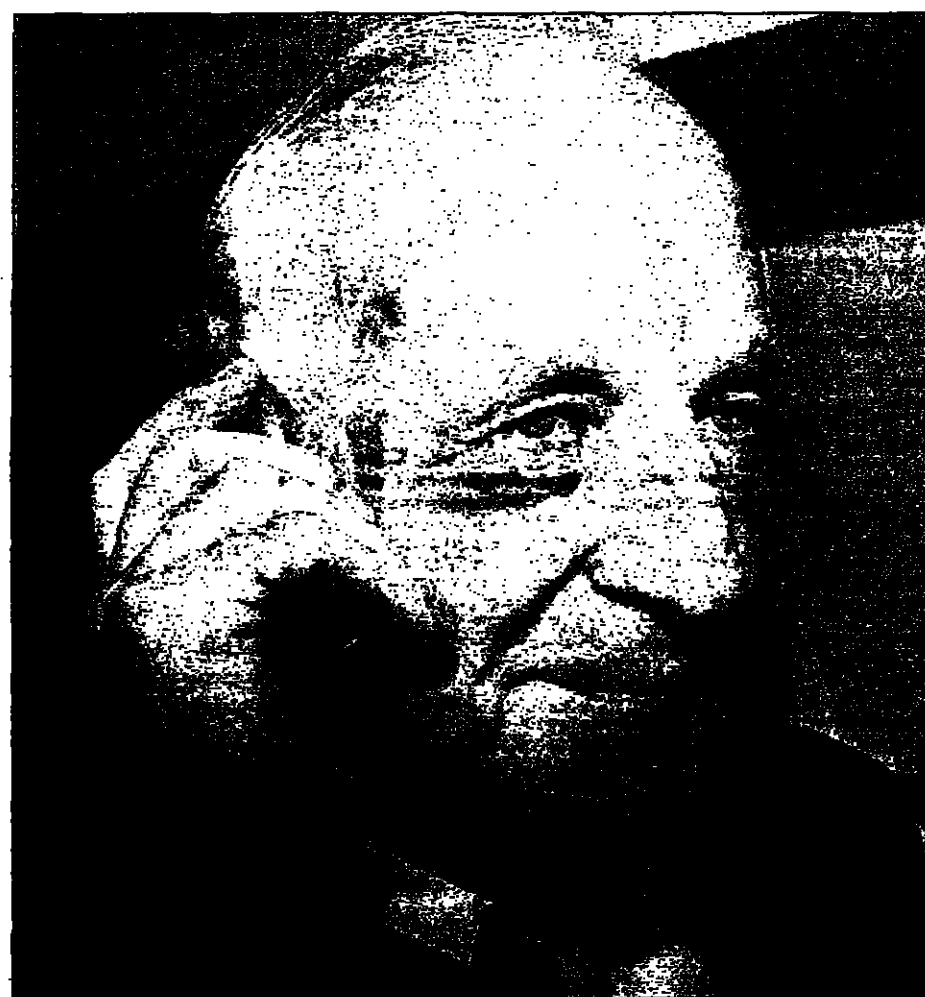
Mr Mayhew was also involved in a scheme to drive down the Argyle share price by selling a stake held by another Guinness supporter at strategically sensitive moments. The inspectors say they are "disturbed" by this strategy and query whether it would be within the spirit of the City takeover code.

Despite such remarks, Mark Loveday, Cazenove's senior partner, said the report is "consistent with everything that was ever said on this issue". He added: "There is no criticism, and no suggestion of wrongdoing, either by the firm or David Mayhew."

The report's harshest criticism of individuals is reserved for Mr Saunders.

The inspectors find that Mr Saunders was fully aware of the illegal support activities, and the subsequent payments of £3.35 million to Mr Parnes ("breath-takingly high"), £3 million to Jack Lyons and £2 million to Tom Ward, an American director of Guinness, still wanted for arrest in the UK. Mr Saunders was to have himself received a £3 million success fee, the report concludes.

The Takeover Panel, the Securities and Futures Authority and others are examining the report to see whether further action needs to be taken. However, it is thought unlikely that action will be taken against individuals.



The harshest criticism is reserved for Ernest Saunders, then Guinness's chief executive



David Mayhew's judgment in tactics used during the battle is questioned by the report

## P&O set to unveil link in bulk shipping

By Dominic Walsh

P&O, the shipping and construction conglomerate, is poised to unveil a joint venture partner for its bulk shipping division aimed at cutting the level of investment needed.

The move, expected to be welcomed by the City, was first signalled in March last year when Lord Sterling of Plaistow, chairman, unveiled a big deal-clearing exercise aimed at raising more than £1 billion.

There had been suggestions that P&O might withdraw from bulk shipping altogether, but bringing in a joint-venture partner will satisfy concerns about the amount of investment that the business swallows. The agreement with the unnamed partner will mean that P&O no longer has to pump any of its own capital into the business.

Another main plank of Lord Sterling's strategy will come to fruition next month when Bovis Homes is floated on the stock market, although latest indications suggest that the mooted £250 million valuation may be optimistic.

There have also been suggestions that P&O is close to selling the Arndale shopping centre, in Manchester, to Prudential for about £300 million.

## Chief's apology

George Mathewson, chief executive of Royal Bank of Scotland, apologised to customers for the problems of Tesco savings accounts, which RBS administers in a joint venture.

Page 29, Tempos 30

## Tribunal clash

The battle between Sir Desmond Pither, outgoing chairman of United Utilities, and Brian Staples, the chief executive he ousted in the summer, is set to be replayed next month at a Manchester industrial tribunal.

## Independent taxing of couples may end

By Caroline Merrell and Alasdair Murray

INDEPENDENT tax treatment of husband and wives is threatened under plans unveiled by the Chancellor this week for reforming the tax and benefit regime.

It could herald a return to a system where husbands and wives are treated as one income unit for taxation.

However, a Treasury spokesman said the Government had no set plans to end independent assessment of income tax. Implementation of the new scheme was still under discussion and full details would not be ready until the spring Budget. "We are aiming to make the benefits more work-oriented, but the test is whether it is effective and efficient," he said.

The Government is planning a complete overhaul of the present system of family credit, which is paid as a benefit to families with income of less than £77 a week. It plans to replace family credit with a tax credit system, similar to the one in America. Around £2 billion a year is paid out in family credit and it is worth an average of £57 a week for families that claim.

Under a revised family tax credit system, workers will receive the benefit in the form of tax relief. Gordon Brown said yesterday: "We want to look at how we can help more low-paid workers to gain benefits from their work."

Commentary, page 29

## UK 'will ride out Far East turmoil'

By Alasdair Murray and Richard Miles

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday expressed confidence that the UK would ride out the crisis in the financial markets in the Far East and that Japan would be able to restore confidence to its battered banking sector.

Mr George admitted there was a risk that the UK economy could be hit by a damaging fallout from the problems in Japan and South Korea, but he said both countries appeared to be taking positive action.

He added: "Japan has the capacity to resolve its own problems. In the last couple of weeks the Government has shown it is prepared to let banks go into liquidation and

stand behind their liabilities." Yasuda, the Japanese trust bank whose credit rating was downgraded earlier this week, said yesterday that it would shed nearly 600 jobs as part of a restructuring plan.

The bank said it planned to raise ¥100 billion (£500 million) of capital through the issue of new shares and the sale of its head office. It will also transfer its brokerage business to Fuji Securities.

Yamaichi, the broker that collapsed under £15 billion of debt, has appointed of DLJ Phoenix, a specialist corporate finance adviser, to find a buyer.

DLJ said that Yamaichi had already received approaches from international groups.

## Battle asks EU to refer Redland bid

By Chris Ayres

JOHN BATTLE, Minister for Science, Energy and Industry, yesterday asked the European Commission to refer Lafarge's £1.8 billion agreed takeover bid for Redland, the building materials group, to the UK authorities.

His decision is believed to be related to Lafarge's ownership of Enxenia, a ready-mix concrete business with operations in Norwich and Leicester. The French group admitted that the takeover would give it market dominance in both areas.

Lafarge yesterday saw acceptance for its bid, which it increased on Wednesday to £1.8 billion to gain a recommended, pass 50 per cent of Redland's shares, and

shrugged off the threat posed by the investigation. However, it admitted the competition authorities could force it to sell Enxenia, but added that a less radical solution was more likely to be found.

Analysts were initially baffled by Mr Battle's statement, as Redland's share of the ready-mix concrete market is known to be only about 10 per cent. Shares in the company dipped slightly in the morning, but closed 2 1/2 p up at 342p as confidence in the deal grew.

Lafarge also revealed yesterday that it had purchased more than 30 per cent of Redland after raising its offer price, and said its 345p per share offer was conditional on it gaining a 50 per cent stake.

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# Round two of Staples and Pitcher fight

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE dispute between Sir Desmond Pitcher, outgoing chairman of United Utilities, and Brian Staples, the chief executive he ousted in the summer, is set to be replayed next month at a Manchester industrial tribunal.

Derek Green, the new chief executive, said the company intended to fight vigorously the claims of unfair dismissal from Mr Staples, who is to become chief executive of Amey in the new year.

Mr Staples is claiming more than £1 million in compensation. Mr Green said: "The suggestion that Brian's departure was the result of a personality clash with Desmond Pitcher was a nonsense."

Mr Staples was sacked in July and immediately instructed his lawyers to tackle United. The controversy led to the early retirement of Sir Desmond. After institutional pressure Sir Desmond said that he will leave next spring instead of his preferred date of 2000.

A severance package for Sir Desmond, who earns

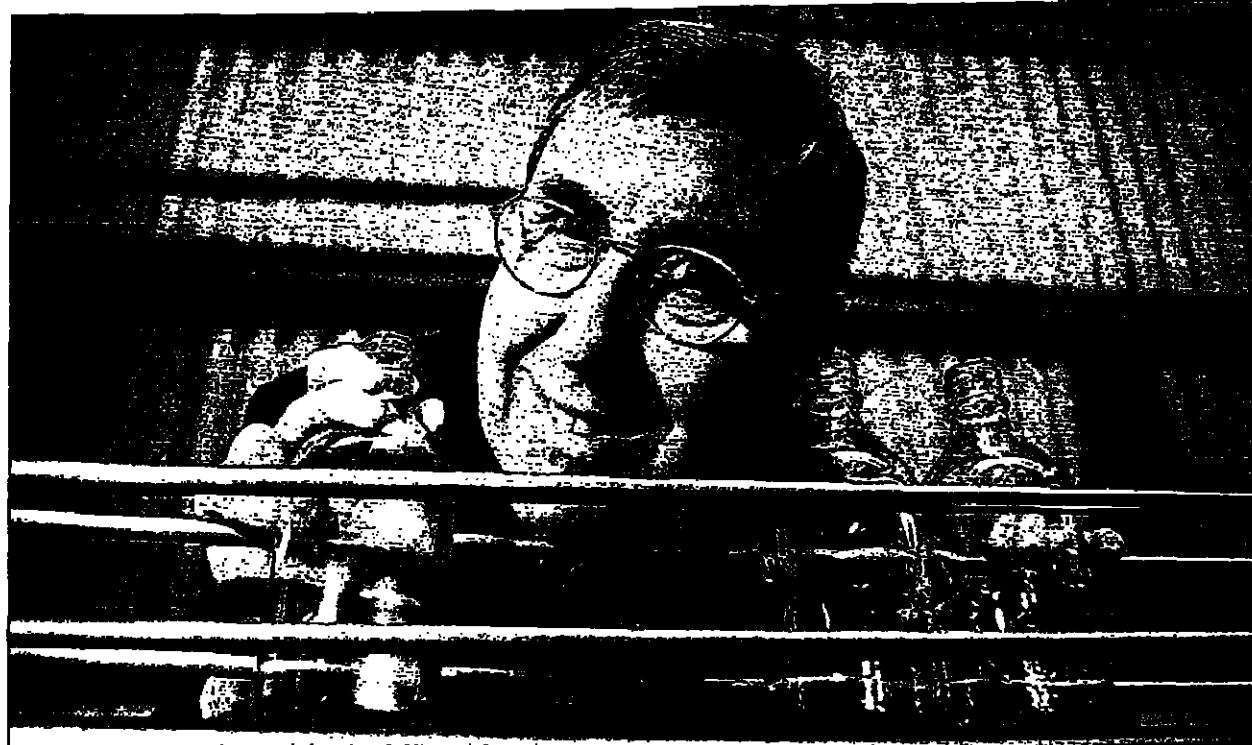
£310,000 a year, is now being prepared.

Mr Green, who has conducted a review of United Utilities' businesses, yesterday said that the company would make £40 million in additional savings by 1999 through extra efficiencies from the fusion of the electricity and water businesses.

He has jettisoned ambitious plans laid by Mr Staples for a full-blown move into the competitive electricity market.

United has still to sign key licence agreements for the opening of competition in the domestic market next April. It is complaining to the regulator of a lack of clarity. The company lifted pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 to £233.6 million. Its interim dividend was increased 9.7 per cent to 13.16p. Sir Desmond stressed that United would moderate dividend increases in order to "underpin the sustainability of the dividend in the longer term."

Water customers are to get a 65.50p rebate next year.



Stuart Lloyd, chief executive of Sutcliffe, Speakman, saw pre-tax profits slip from £2.6 million to £2.5 million in the half year to September. Earnings slipped from 1.35p to 1.23p but the dividend rose from 0.43p to 0.50p

## Yorkshire Water defiant over payout

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

YORKSHIRE WATER, which is still trying to redeem its reputation after its performance in the 1995 drought, yesterday defied the regulator's warnings over high dividends by lifting its interim payment 20 per cent. But it claimed that it had struck a better balance between shareholders and customers.

Brandon Gough, chairman, said the six months to September 30 had produced "a useful, healthy but not excessive increase in profits but underpinned by some good improvements in customer service". Kevin Bond, chief executive, said the dividend had been raised by 20 per cent after a commitment to give real growth of up to 8 per cent, and after a share buyback had increased returns. Homes cut off for more than 12 hours

dropped to 668 in the six months, compared with 2,274 a year ago.

Pre-tax profits were £115.7 million, up from £109.4 million. The interim dividend, due January 23, was set at 6.15p.

Wessex Water's pre-tax profits were trimmed by the costs of buying back some of its shares last year. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 fell 4.5 per cent to £72.1 million. An interim of 6.5p, up 14 per cent, is due April 6.

## Asia turmoil may hit us, says Euromoney

SHARES in Euromoney Publications, the publishing group that recently bought Institutional Investor in the United States for £85 million, dropped by 35p, to £16.85, after the company gave warning that the turmoil in Asian markets could affect its next year's results.

Richard Ensor, the managing director of Euromoney, said: "This is not a profits warning. We do not make any forecasts. It was a pretty obvious statement to make, we have no idea how the Asian market is going to pan out. All our products are capable of switching focus to other parts of the world."

The statement from Euromoney came as the company reported a 19 per cent increase in its pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, rising from £25.5 million to £30.3 million, and significantly above the City's expectations. Turnover was up by 25 per cent, from £104 million to £131 million, and earnings per share were up by 19 per cent, from 75.93p to 90.25p. A final dividend of 33p, rising from 32p, will be paid on January 26, taking the total dividend for the year to 51p, increased from 46p.

Temps, page 30

## Directors' pay up 8.6%

DIRECTORS last year got an average 8.6 per cent more in pay packages than in 1995. According to Monks Partnership, the remuneration consultancy, basic salaries rose 6.3 per cent. For financial businesses the basic rise was 7.4 per cent, while the full package rose 11.3 per cent. For property companies the basic increase was 4.1 per cent, while total earnings jumped 10.3 per cent. In industrial and commercial companies the rises were 6.8 per cent and 7.6 per cent. Twelve board directors earned more than £1 million, compared with seven the previous year.

## Licence for Atlantic

THE Atlantic Telecom Group said yesterday that it has received Government approval in principle for a fixed radio telecommunications licence to run services throughout the UK. Atlantic launched a radio telecommunications service in Glasgow last year and says that 10,000 lines are either already installed or are about to be installed. The company plans to offer services to homes and business premises in a number of areas of England without requiring it, in principle, to incur the cost of building a national network.

## Bristol press group up

BRISTOL UNITED PRESS, the regional newspaper group that last month bought Newsquest's Wessex newspapers subsidiary for £35 million, lifted pre-tax profits by 63 per cent in the half year to September 30, from £4.2 million to £6.9 million. Total sales were £33.7 million, up 8 per cent from £31.1 million. Earnings per share were up 78 per cent, from 10.81p to 19.24p. An interim dividend of 6p, up from 5.25p, is due on January 27. The company said that Wessex, which owns eleven titles, had been successfully integrated into the group.

## I&S hits Caledonia

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Caledonia Investments declined £1.2 million to £22.4 million after the poor performance at Ivory & Sime, the Edinburgh fund manager, and last year's sale of Bristol Helicopters. The diversified trading and investments company agreed to sell two thirds of its 29 per cent stake in Ivory & Sime to Friends Provident, which is taking over the company. Earnings per share slipped from 17.7p to 17p. The company declared an interim dividend of 6.5p, up 0.3p.

### LEGAL NOTICES

## ASSOCIATED GAS SUPPLIES LIMITED

These Terms and Conditions are incorporated into your Agreement and set out the basis upon which we will supply you or upon which we will be deemed to supply you as described under the heading "Deemed Customer" below. The Agreement is between AGAS and yourself. The Agreement and supply will start on the Supply Date which we will confirm to you in writing.

1. Payment  
Your gas bill will be based on an estimate which will then be reconciled whenever a meter reading is taken. You must pay for any gas supplied to your premises according to the chosen payment method and frequency and at the prevailing price set out in the Price Schedule which forms part of the Agreement. You must also pay us the rate shown in our published Deemed Customer Price Schedule for any of our gas used outside the terms of the Agreement or at any time the Agreement is not in force together with any costs we incur due to such use. Payment dates will be indicated on the bill. When any payment from you is overdue by at least 28 days from the date of written demand, we may recover this from you and stop you from changing to a different supplier. The amounts of gas supplied will be calculated according to the requirements of the law.

2. The Meter  
You must tell us immediately if the meter is replaced or modified. If it is a prepayment meter you must tell us when it needs emptying or is faulty. If the prepayment meter fails to work we will not be liable for non-supply unless it is due to our negligence. You must ensure that no part of the meter including the seal or any attached notice is mistreated or removed. An estimate may be used if the meter is faulty. We will charge you for any costs which may arise should you take gas except through the meter. You agree to allow reasonable access (on suitable notice) to ourselves and anyone else who can identify themselves and who reasonably needs access to read the meter or in connection with the supply generally.

3. Liability  
We (including anyone who works for us) will not be liable to you for any loss of use, profits, contracts, production or revenue or for increased cost of working or business interruption however caused.

4. Non-Supply  
If we cannot comply with the Agreement for any reason beyond our control or we cannot supply you owing to works, repair, maintenance or safety reasons, then we will not be in breach of the Agreement. Where a direction is given to us under section 2(1)(b) of the Energy Act 1976 (emergencies) we are permitted to discontinue or restrict the gas supply and you must stop or restrict the use of gas when we ask you to.

5. Termination  
The Agreement will continue until validly terminated on 28 days advance written notice to take effect from when a new and valid agreement is reached between ourselves (or another supplier) and either you or anyone else at your premises or from when the premises are disconnected because you no longer need a supply. If you are moving house it may be terminated on 48 hours advance notice to take effect from the date you either leave or cease to own the premises otherwise you must pay for any gas used until the meter is read next, another customer takes over the supply or the 28th day from when you actually gave us notice (whichever is the earliest). The Agreement will terminate automatically at any time another supplier is required by law to supply your premises. If either party commits a significant breach of the Agreement the other may terminate (without affecting any existing rights or obligations of either Party) on reasonable notice.

6. Safety  
Anything done or not done by ourselves or the company which owns the pipes connected to your premises in dealing with an emergency or a safety issue will not be in breach of the Agreement.

7. General  
We may vary the Agreement. If there are any significant changes we will notify you of any variations which are to your serious disadvantage and, provided you terminate (on 21 days advance written notice to us) within 14 days of our notifying you, you will not be bound by the variations in the interim. You must not sign a gas supply agreement with more than one supplier at any one time. The Agreement represents the entire agreement between us and supersedes anything previously said, done or implied which adds to or conflicts with it.

8. Deemed Customer  
If you use our gas at any time the Agreement is not in force or in other cases provided for by law the above terms and conditions will still apply (with any necessary changes) but they will constitute a Deemed Contract of the kind required by law to supply your premises. If either party commits a significant breach of the Agreement the other may terminate (without affecting any existing rights or obligations of either Party) on reasonable notice.

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We may vary the Agreement. If there are any significant changes we will notify you of any variations which are to your serious disadvantage and, provided you terminate (on 21 days advance written notice to us) within 14 days of our notifying you, you will not be bound by the variations in the interim. You must not sign a gas supply agreement with more than one supplier at any one time. The Agreement represents the entire agreement between us and supersedes anything previously said, done or implied which adds to or conflicts with it.

53. Deemed Customer  
If you use our gas at any time the Agreement is not in force or in other cases provided for by law the above terms and conditions will still apply (with any necessary changes) but they will constitute a Deemed Contract of the kind required by law to supply your premises. If either party commits a significant breach of the Agreement the other may terminate (without affecting any existing rights or obligations of either Party) on reasonable notice.

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## ITN takes stake in Euronews

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

INDEPENDENT Television News will today sign a deal to take over 49 per cent plus managerial control of Euronews, the pan-European television news channel that is available to 90 million households in 43 countries.

It is ITN's first foray into running a channel of its own and its most significant move so far outside the UK.

Euronews, which specialises in world news, business and sport, broadcasts in English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian, with an Arabic service in peak time.

ITN, now owned by Carlton, Granada, United News & Media, Associated Newspapers and Reuters, sees

the Euronews move as a business expansion and believes the loss-making channel, which is based in Lyons, can be turned into profit within two years.

ITN is buying the 49 per cent stake in the venture held by Alcatel for about £5 million and the European broadcasters who are shareholders in the venture, RAI of Italy, France Television, Swiss Broadcasting and TVE of Spain, have agreed to give ITN managerial control.

Recent studies of pan-European viewing showed Euronews second behind CNN but a long way ahead of NBC, BBC World and European Business News.

## Hit list from Hardern

MICHAEL HARDERN, the "carpetbagging" activist, is targeting three more building societies for conversion after his failed attempt at the Nationwide in the summer (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Mr Hardern, a former Royal Butler, is urging thousands of people who have received copies of his carpetbagging guide to vote him on to the boards of Bradford & Bingley,

Britannia and Chelsea Building Societies.

He wants the societies to abandon their mutual status and hand out windfalls to their members. Members who agree should send a stamped addressed envelope to his home in London for a Windfall Action Form by December 31, he said. All three building societies have removed him from their membership rolls.

## Firms face £5,000 fine for failure to observe pay decree

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESSES refusing to pay the national minimum wage will face fines of up to £5,000, the Government said yesterday when it published the Bill to implement the measure.

It also accepted publicly that there might be a risk to inflation from the minimum wage, but insisted that the benefits were considerable and the risks small.

Ian McCartney, the Industry Minister, said the minimum would be "simple and universal", and would apply to all regions of the country, all sectors of the economy, and all sizes of firms. All workers above school age will be covered, the Bill makes clear. The only exceptions are the genuinely self-employed, voluntary workers, children below the school-leaving age, share fishermen and prisoners.

The minimum wage will apply to homeworkers, Crown employees, agency workers and the armed forces. Ministers are reserving the power to exempt all people under the age of 26, and trainees from the Bill's coverage, depending on the recommendations of the Low Pay Commission, which will suggest an initial minimum rate to ministers next year.

The Bill gives the power to appoint new inspectors or use existing officials like tax and VAT inspectors to enforce its provisions.

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buyers	Sells	Buyers	Sells
Australia \$	2.26	Belgium Fr	0.888
Canada Cdn	21.70	Denmark Kr	3.222
France Fr	64.06	Germany DM	2.47
Italy Lit	2.032	Japan Yen	11.70
Netherlands Gld	0.936	Portugal Esc	313.83
Spain Ptas	166.64	Sweden Kr	8.46
Switzerland Fr	2.07	Switzerland Fr	2.32
UK £	1.00	USA \$	1.778
			1.635

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# This Guinness has gone flat



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

It is eleven years ago today that the Department of Trade and Industry appointed two inspectors to investigate the Guinness takeover of Distillers. That we should have had to wait until now to learn of their findings is almost as scandalous as the contents of their report.

While the City regulators will now be obliged to pore over the 308 pages and appendices, the likelihood of them taking any action as a result is negligible. The drive to put Ernest Saunders and his cronies in the dock was fuelled by political will but the fiasco of three trials has long quelled that urge.

The publication of the report has generated headlines for this morning but the excitement will be short-lived, for the just for blood has evaporated. The Government has spelt out that it will not be issuing proceedings as a result of the inspectors' findings and the Securities and Futures Authority is hardly going to attack top City names for what they might have been doing in 1986.

And the report makes clear that many of them were having a fine time, demonstrating total contempt for rules and codes; and, occasionally, the law. The inspectors are sweeping in their criticism of the Square Mile and speak of some of its inhabitants in tones of haughty distaste. They clearly did not warm to David Mayhew, and come close to impugning the integrity of the smooth old Etonian stockbroker. But they do not give

the SFA any evidence that would provide them with the basis of a case against the man who is now a top Cazenove partner.

In short, the report provides little more than a riveting read and a snapshot of the City as it was, when share support operations were commonplace and the mutual back-scratching was as common as it is among any troop of monkeys. If Guinness went one degree further in its share support operation, it was not necessarily in providing indemnities to those who helped buoy up its share price but in putting them in writing.

Yet there was, in theory, regulation that should have put paid to the practices that were apparently so rife. Where was the Takeover Panel when Argyll and Guinness were waging war? The share price movements provided ample evidence that something was amiss and a strong Panel should have been able to root out the cause.

There have since been changes in City regulation and there will be more with the advent of the Financial Services Authority. But at a cost of more than £3 million, the DTI report has contributed nothing to preventing another Guinness scandal in the inter-

vening decade. If these reports are to be anything other than indulgent journalistic exercises for accountants and lawyers, they need to be produced speedily with more of an eye to content than style.

There are currently four DTI reports wending slowly towards publication, including that into Mirror Group. The late Robert Maxwell has no interest in the outcome, but it will lose all relevance unless published soon.

## Brave Brown risks feminist backlash

The independent taxation reforms passed in 1990, were intended to bring to an end centuries of inequality for women within the tax system. Seven years later, Gordon Brown, supposedly a new man, appears to wish to return to the status of chivalier. His significant other, Sarah Macaulay, should perhaps be paying

attention to her friend's view on the position of husband and wife within marriage.

The more well-heeled Labour supporters should also feel uneasy. Mr Brown could easily argue that independent taxation should be abolished since it is flawed and certain anomalies do still exist within the system. Although spouses are treated as separate entities, matrimony still has its fiscal advantages: gifts between spouses escape capital gains tax and estates pass free of inheritance tax. As he told us this week, Mr Brown is determined to root out tax avoidance. Getting rid of independent taxation would provide him with the chance to outlaw what could be seen as inter-marital avoidance.

But ending the separate taxation of husband and wife would bring the Chancellor into direct conflict with 100 or more of his female colleagues in the Commons, let alone hosts of independent-minded females outside the House of

Commons. The brave Chancellor may be prepared to court unpopularity as a way of ensuring that the new-style family tax credits go only to the most needy households but he will need to plot his course carefully. Changes cannot be made piecemeal and they should have some regard to the mundane realities of family life.

How is he to ensure that the person who gets the tax credit spends it on the family? There is also the issue of the married couple's allowance of £1,830 which, following reductions by successive Tory Chancellors, is worth just £274.50. This is something of a dilemma for Mr Brown. If he increases the allowance, then he would benefit the rich as well as the poor. But abolition would destroy any pretensions to be the party of the family.

The Chancellor must be wary of the dangers of venturing into the territory between husband and wife. The Government has already demonstrated its enthusiasm for

speaking first and considering the consequences second, whether on such complicated topics as foreign income dividends or the banning of tobacco sponsorship. Mistakes in certain areas are easily righted — just hand back the cheque. But in fiscal matters, the ramifications of change need to be carefully thought through before any move is made.

## New York turns sour on the euro

Gordon Brown may be surprised to find more fearsome critics of EMU in America than at home, if only because their doubts cannot be put down to general Europhobia. Doubtless, economic elder statesmen such as Henry Kaufman and Martin Feldstein have had more contact with Britain's old free market internationalists than with new Labour's euro-focused long-termists. Yet their fears are real.

The Brownies have yet to grasp that what offers stability to some spells inflexibility to others. That hurts when the rules for stability are enshrined in institutions such as an independent monetary authority in Frankfurt

or Threadneedle Street, let alone the Maastricht deficit rules.

France and other euro-fans chose to endure needless years of low growth and high unemployment to allow Germany a boost from annexing its eastern provinces. In the euro zone, there will be no choice. Hence the head-shaking from Americans who know that their civil war was not only about slavery. In practice, the worst threat to the euro zone may be its inability to deal with a general recession, rather than from unrest or calls for secession in economies that are out of step with the Rhein valley.

Mr Brown's best argument for investing in Britain is that the UK will be able to watch the euro's first, most dangerous years from the sidelines without suffering the risks of permanent exclusion. The UK is in tune with US advice not to rush the euro, American investors please note.

## BAA humbug

SIR Terence Conran's recent attack on BAA in our letters column has brought forth a chorus of sympathy from fellow travellers who do not wish to spend their journeys pondering where to stuff the carrier bags. As the director of corporate affairs for BAA, Des Wilson's determination to defend his company and attack the detractor shows an impressive disregard for the fashionable concept of customer relations.

# RBS sorry for delays in Tesco account debut

BY RICHARD MILES  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Bank of Scotland turned away a string of retailers before forming its joint venture with Tesco, the UK's biggest supermarket group.

Dr George Mathewson, group chief executive of the RBS, took the unusual step of apologising to customers whose applications for a Tesco savings account had been delayed because of administrative troubles. Tesco has received 400,000 applications in five months.

The bank, which yesterday reported higher than expected pre-tax profits of £760 million, is understood to have held discussions with a number of companies that expressed an interest in entering the financial services market.

While RBS remained tight-lipped about the identity of the retailers, the bank did disclose that it has written off £11 million against its investment in Tesco Personal Finance, launched in July.



Lord Younger of Prestwick, left, chairman, and Bob Speyer, finance director, reporting the improved results yesterday

Dr Mathewson said that he expected to see the first profits from the bank's new retail finance businesses coming through by the beginning of the millennium. In total, RBS wrote off £27 million

against its investment in new retail financial businesses, including Tesco and more recently its partnership with Virgin One, a telephone-based bank that was launched last

month. The investment in such ventures helped to lift operating expenses at the bank by more than 17 per cent, to £1.55 billion. The group's income ratio edged up to 52.2 per cent, from 50 per cent in the previous year, in spite of falling costs at the UK bank.

Dr Mathewson also ended speculation that the RBS was in merger talks with Abbey National. He made it clear that the future of the bank lay in joint ventures, such as its partnerships with Tesco and life insurer Scottish Widows.

The chief executive did not rule out further acquisitions after its £630 million takeover of Birmingham Midshires Building Society in August, but stressed that prices were too high at present. For the next 12 months, expansion was likely to come from organic growth, he said.

RBS lifted its total dividend by 15 per cent to 21.4p via a final payout of 15.2p. The bank's shares rose 12p to 685p.

Tempus page 30

## Direct Line profit rises to £36m

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

DIRECT LINE, the insurance subsidiary of Royal Bank of Scotland, has lifted full-year pre-tax profits 37 per cent to £36 million, from the 1996 figure of £26.5 million, but at the cost of losing 100,000 motor customers (Marianne Corpey writes).

The telephone insurer provides cover for 21 million private motorists — the largest number for a single insurer in the UK. Direct Line said it had succeeded in raising motor rates in selective areas. However, the industry is experiencing intense competition.

RBS said that unless motor insurance premiums rose, weaker participants would be forced to leave the market. Like other motor insurers, Direct Line has suffered from the rising cost of personal injury claims.

## Troubled M&G falls further

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

M&G, the troubled fund management group, yesterday insisted that it is on the road to recovery in spite of results showing a further fall in the company's share of the private investment market.

Net sales of the company's unit trusts and investment trusts, which have been blighted by poor performance, fell £220 million into the red as investors redeemed £779 million of holdings, £254 million more than last year.

Funds under management rose by 16 per cent, to £18.1 billion, yet behind the 23 per cent growth in the FTSE all-share index.

Michael McIntock, the group chief executive, who joined in February, refused to comment on speculation that M&G had been in talks with potential bidders, such as Halifax, and denied that he had

been given nine more months to turn the company round.

A 4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £67.4 million, disappointed analysts, who had expected £70 million. The share price fell by 11p, to £14.35, ending a rise of more than £3 in the past month.

Retail figures showed that M&G's share of the vital PEP market had fallen from 7.4 per cent to 4.1 per cent, in spite of spending £2 million in the spring on a television advertising campaign featuring Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor. Overall marketing expenditure rose by £8 million, to £46.2 million, as M&G stepped up the promotion of low-cost funds via independent financial advisers.

A final dividend of 24p makes 40p, up 11 per cent.

Tempus page 30

## Berisford best for eight years

BY FRASER NELSON

BERISFORD, the Magnet DIY and kitchens group, returned its strongest results for eight years yesterday after staging a full recovery from the strike at its Darlington factory and production problems in the US.

The boom in Britain's DIY market helped the company to lift profits from £25.5 million to £37 million before tax and exceptional gains in the year to September 30.

A range of new kitchens helped Magnet to deliver underlying sales growth of 15 per cent, beating 10 per cent growth in the market. Increased share of the woodwork market saw its joinery division advance 18 per cent, while the plastic double-glazed windows division grew 20 per cent.

A 4.5p final dividend, due on January 1, makes 6.5p (4.5p).

## Brewery drops its failures

BY DOMINIC WALSH

AFTER failing to make an acceptable return on capital, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, the regional brewer and pub operator, is to drop some of its pub concepts.

Ralph Findlay, finance director, said brands such as Fast Eddie's and Last Word would be discontinued and the focus would be the Milestone, Varsity and Poacher's Pocket concepts.

In the year to September 28, return on investment in new-built units was 11 per cent against a target of 15 per cent, with some pubs failing to make any return whatsoever.

Pre-tax profits before exceptional items were unchanged at £43.1 million on sales 10.4 per cent better at £275.6 million. Earnings per share, excluding exceptional items, were up 3.1 per cent to 46.8p. A final 12.1p, to be paid on January 30, makes 18.7p, up 10 per cent. The group is to seek shareholder approval to buy back 14.99 per cent of its shares.

## Plasterboard firm likely to shed 100 workers in UK

BY ADAM JONES

ABOUT 100 UK staff are likely to be made redundant by BPB, the plasterboard maker, as it tackles underperformance at its paper division.

The division, which employs 2,400 internationally, mainly supplies paper for the manufacture of plasterboard used in the building trade. Its return on sales fell from 8.9 per cent in the first half of 1996, to 2.3 per cent in the comparable period of 1997.

BPB aims to shed 850 jobs by selling its mill in Radcliffe, Manchester, as well as a Dutch mill already earmarked for disposal and by closing a divisional head office in Northwich, Cheshire.

Jean-Pierre Cuny, chief executive, said that he hoped the Radcliffe jobs would be retained in any sale, but the bulk of the anticipated redundancies would be at Northwich. In spite of a profits fall induced by the strong pound,

BPB raised its interim dividend 7 per cent yesterday to highlight underlying growth. Interim profits before tax fell from £108.3 million in 1996, when a £11.6 million exceptional credit was recorded, to £99 million. Mike Betts, a Goldman Sachs analyst, predicted full-year profits of £176 million.

Mr Cuny said underlying profits would have been up 4 per cent at constant exchange rates. Actual underlying profits fell £7.9 million to £88.8 million after a £12 million currency hit and an increased redundancy charge of £4.8 million, up from £2.2 million.

Mr Cuny said BPB was considering taking advantage of the crises in the Far East as a cheap expansion opportunity. BPB has no exposure there. An interim dividend of 3.8p per share will be paid on January 23 as a foreign income dividend.

## Technology sector deals boost 3i

BY RICHARD MILES

A BUOYANT market for management deals in the mid-cap and technology sectors helped to boost first-half pre-tax profits at 3i, the venture capitalist, almost 14 per cent to £225.7 million.

It said it had achieved a total return of £217.4 million, equivalent to 7.5 per cent on shareholder funds, against £188.4 million for the same six months in 1996. This compares with a 1.5 per cent rise in the FTSE smallcap total return index.

Net asset value edged up 6.6 per cent to 518p as shareholders' funds exceeded £3 billion for the first time. During the period, 3i invested £538.4 million, the bulk placed in 342 UK businesses.

Brian Larcombe, chief executive, said he was considering backing companies on the Alternative Investment Market in the wake of falling share prices. He added that 3i had invested £52 million in 44 businesses in continental Europe.

## American news lifts Johnson Matthey price

BY ADAM JONES

SHARES in Johnson Matthey leapt 6 per cent to 553p on excitement over its new US semiconductor-packaging factory and reassuring comments about exposure to Asian volatility. A restructuring of a ceramics joint venture will lead to the loss of more than 50 jobs in Stoke, however.

The metals and engineering group reported interim pre-tax profits of £58.2 million, a rise of 14 per cent. Electronic materials division profits were up 50 per cent to £18 million. David Davies, chairman, said its semiconductor packaging plant in Wisconsin, has reached its target of

producing a million units a month. He said full capacity of about 1.5 million a month should be reached by March.

Johnson Matthey said there was no fallout from the Far East yet. A slight dip in Japanese demand for platinum was more than matched by increases from China.

In an overhaul of the underperforming ceramics joint venture with Cookson, peripheral businesses are to be sold and the decorative ceramics operation is to be streamlined. One hundred jobs will be lost internationally. The interim dividend increased by 10.6 per cent to 5.2p.

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Wendy O'Kelly  
Senior Treasury Manager

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## STOCK MARKET

**MICHAEL CLARK**  
Stock Market Writer  
of the Year

# Vodafone takeover talk lifts shares to new high

THE saying that price tells all is one often quoted by City brokers, in which case we should see a bid any day now for Vodafone, Britain's biggest mobile phone operator.

The price climbed a further 13p to an all-time high of 394p - stretching its lead during the past couple of weeks to 47p - amid further heavy turnover that saw almost eight million shares change hands. The group now commands a price tag of £1.2 billion.

There has been talk for some weeks about a bid from American Telephone & Telegraph, which is said to be anxious to gain a toehold in the European mobile phone market. Vodafone may prove to be the ideal vehicle, unlike Cellnet, its nearest rival owned jointly by BT, down 6p at 450p, and Securicor, up 5p at 275p. Other names may also be in the frame. Brokers say Lehman Brothers, a US securities firm, has been a big buyer of the stock.

A few weeks ago Vodafone, under Chris Gent, chief executive, announced a series of price cuts in an attempt to stoke up the competitive pressures for its rivals. Brokers say the recent rise appears to be discounting a lot.

Share prices generally enjoyed an early mark-up with the help of another positive performance overnight in Tokyo. But with Wall Street closed for the Thanksgiving Day celebrations, prices in London failed to hold on to their early lead and the FTSE 100 index closed 2.2 down at 4,889.0. Turnover was on the low side, with 689 million shares traded, and this was swayed by 110 million shares traded in Rediffusion after the increased terms from Lafarge. Rediffusion 2.2 up to 342p, unperturbed by a Government call to the European Commission to refer part of the £1.8 billion bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

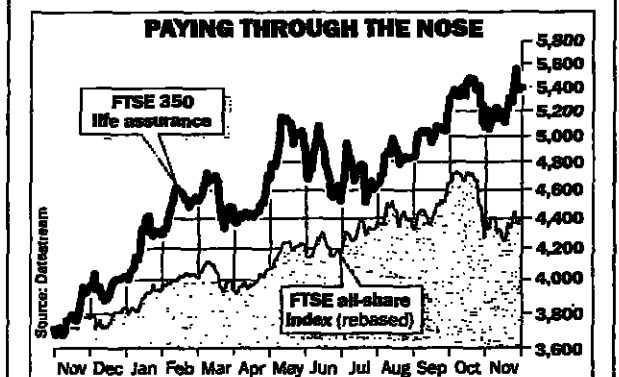
British Aerospace climbed 3p to £16.28 after the German Government finally gave the go-ahead to the £40 billion European fighter project. BAE will supply the wings and part of the fuselage. Other beneficiaries include Rolls-Royce, 2p easier at 234p, which will help to make the engines and GEC, 3p cheaper at 393.5p, involved in supplying the aircraft's electronic systems. BAE is also expected to benefit from a Government decision



Chris Gent, of Vodafone, a further 13p higher at 394p

to allow foreign share ownership to rise from 29.9 per cent to around 40 per cent.

The falling oil price is likely to make life difficult for the oil companies. But Shell, down 6p at 412p, also had to contend with the suggestion from BZW that clients should switch into rival BP, 4p better at 812p. Zeneca continued to make headway with a rise of 6p to £18.96 as Dresdner Kleinwort



insurances are desperate to snatch up the life assurance companies having seen their share prices rise ahead sharply this week on the back of a flurry of revived bid speculation. Takeover favourite London & Manchester retreated 13p to 501p, while falls were also recorded in Legal & General, 10p to 508p, Norwich Union, 5p to 363p, and Prudential Corporation, 5p to 658p.

But this lull in activity is likely to prove short-lived. David Hudson at Credit Lyonnais Laing says: "We know the banks and build-

Zomig could be worth £1.5 billion within the next few years.

Meanwhile, British Biotech advanced 7 1/2p to 117p, fuelled by claims that Zeneca is poised to make a bid. British Biotech currently carries a price tag of £725 million. Hillside fell 8p to 157p as several brokers downgraded their profit forecasts from £165 million to £158 million. The move has been blamed on weakening food prices. But Fairview, its housebuilding arm, continues to do well as does its furniture business.

News of a bid approach lifted Nepeand 8p to 391p. The group is also poised to sell a piece of land for £1 million currently on the books at £150,000. But the engine

warmed shareholders that final profits would fall short of last year's £1.61 million. Courtaulds rose 6 1/2p to 276p after HSBC James Capel, the broker, made some encouraging noises and set a target price for the shares of 385p. It follows close on the heels of the group's acquisition of a German protective coatings business.

Tetra Holdings made an encouraging debut after a placing of shares by HSBC James Capel at 160p. The computer software specialist saw its price touch a peak of 172 1/2p before settling at 171p, a premium of 11p.

Also making its debut was Seascope Shipping, which enjoyed a modest premium after a placing by Bell Lawrie White, the broker, at 250p. The shares closed 5p dearer at 255p.

**GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London drifted lower, along with other European markets. The continuing rally in Japan overnight prompted a move away from fixed interest back into equities.

The absence of any inspiration from US Treasury bonds also kept investors sidelined for much of the day. They await testimony from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to the Treasury select committee.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt traded 1/2p lower at £118 1/2p in moderate trading. In long Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 1/2p to £118 1/2p while among shorter dated issues Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 1/2p lower at £100 1/2p.

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street was closed for Thanksgiving.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 8,947.50 (+57.45)

S&P Composite 1,663.20 (+57.45)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 16,603.20 (+57.45)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 10,883.10 (+7.01)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 886.31 (+3.99)

Sydney: ASX 3,462.3 (+0.8)

Frankfurt: DAX 3,953.84 (+37.31)

Singapore: Straits 1,650.97 (+2.58)

Brussels: CMC-40 1,367.58 (+45.10)

Paris: CAC-40 3,859.01 (+17.38)

Zurich: S&K Gen 1,190.60 (+7.30)

London: FT 30 3,160.7 (-2.8)

FTSE 100 4,889.0 (-2.2)

FTSE 250 2,601.2 (+0.2)

FTSE All-Share 2,504.6 (+0.7)

FTSE Non Financials 2,308.7 (+0.7)

FTSE Financials 3,128.0 (+0.2)

FTSE Govt Sec 100.07 (-0.12)

Bargains 4,099

USQ Volume 1,674.7 (+0.028)

German Mark 2,954.5 (+0.013)

Exchange Index 104.4 (-0.3)

Bank of England official close (p.m.)

LEU 1.4867

ESDR 1.2333

RPI 199.5 Oct (3.74) Jan 1997=100

RPIX 157.9 Oct (2.94) Jan 1997=100

Workplace Tech 171

Green Pro (350) 32 1/2

Advantage UK Tst 100%

BCH Group 199%

BC 30%

CRIC 110%

Capital Opps Tst 113%

Capital Int 153%

Firm Guarded Ust 72%

ForeSight Tech Wst 30%

ForeSight Tech 100%

Gyrus Group 144%

Holmes Place 185%

Maier 103%

Monstarussia 73%

Minorplanet Sys 54%

Newsquest (250) 255%

Northern Recruit 116%

Nottingham Prt (70) 56%

Savoy Asset Mgmt 113%

Seascope Shipping 255%

Tetra 171%

Workplace Tech 171%

Green Pro (350) 32 1/2

Advantage UK Tst 100%

BCH Group 199%

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## Mixed Royal message

ROYAL Bank of Scotland comfortably beat the expectations of the City yesterday to report a 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits. Even Direct Line, the telephone-based insurance arm founded by Peter Wood, appears to have made a return to form, chipping in £36 million towards a total of £760 million.

However, the results will only serve to heighten speculation about the bank's future in a sector where consolidation appears to accelerate almost daily. George Mathewson, the plain-speaking group chief executive, did his best to dispel the rumours, shooting down recent reports that RBS had begun merger talks with Abbey National.

Dr Mathewson believes the bank's future lies in partnerships with retailers, such as the joint venture with Tesco and, more recently, the tie-up with Richard Branson, to form Virgin One, a telephone-based bank. Such partnerships allow RBS to expand its retail business south of the border far more cheaply and quickly than through the establishment of a traditional branch network.

But doubts have already surfaced about the bank's ability to cope with the demands of such partnerships. Tesco took the unusual step of offering compensation to many of the 400,000 applicants for its savings account after they suffered lengthy delays. Yesterday, after they suffered lengthy delays, the mix-up, Dr Mathewson apologised for the mix-up, claiming the bank was a victim of its own success. Whether Mr Branson would stand for such a publicity disaster is doubtful.

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# Santa Gordon in conflict with Ebenezer Brown

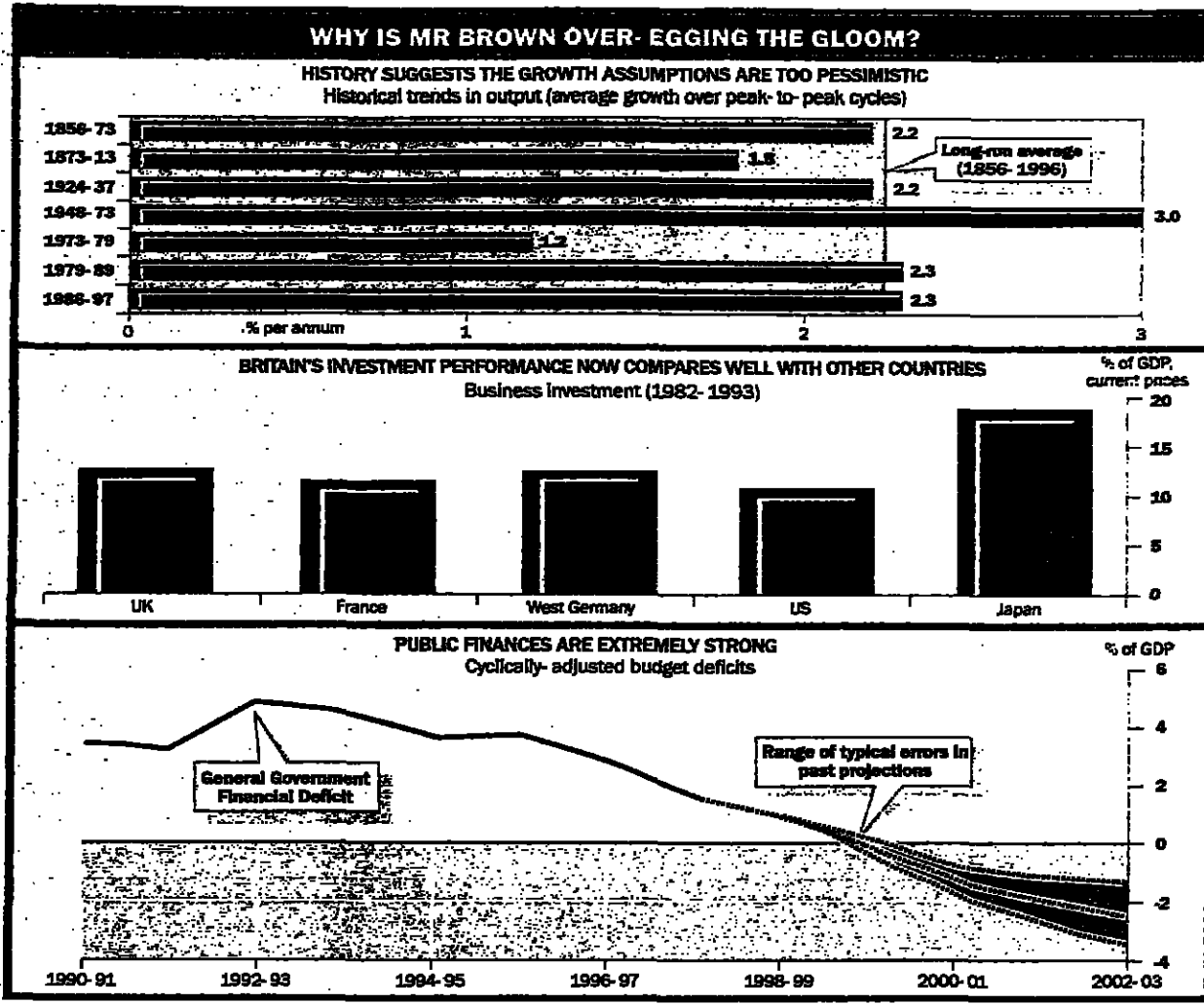
The Treasury's view of inflation is sharply at odds with that of the Bank

Gordon Brown must have been delighted by the reaction to his mini-Budget. Nothing could be more congenial to the spin doctors, especially in a week of rebellions over cuts in welfare benefits for the disabled and single parents, than cartoons of a jolly Chancellor in a Santa hat, backed up by TV clips of children in playgrounds and pensioners in front of gas fires.

Most importantly, this trivialisation was remarkably successful in distracting attention from the Treasury's fiscal forecasts and economic assumptions, was far more important than rag-bag of minor changes in taxation and welfare policy which dominated his speech. Before going on to discuss these, one of the spending measures does deserve special attention: the decision to throw away £400 million (enough to finance all the disputed benefits for single parents) on an indiscriminate "Christmas heating" handout to all pensioners, regardless of their means. It is hard to improve the comment of Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, that the Government has turned its new autumn pre-Budget report "into just another occasion each year when the Chancellor feels obliged to hand out brightly coloured lollipops to MPs and the popular press."

Now let us turn to the more serious issues. Two, in particular, are worth noting. First, the Chancellor's assumptions about the economy's long-term growth potential and about the lowest sustainable rate of unemployment are both very pessimistic. Secondly, even on the basis of the Treasury's very cautious assumptions about growth and employment, a dramatic reduction in public borrowing appears to be on the cards in the years leading up to the next election — a reduction which the Chancellor preferred to gloss over in his presentation.

Focusing first on the economic assumptions, the Treasury believes that Britain's long-term sustainable growth rate is only 2.25 per cent, despite the fact that growth has averaged 2.5 per cent in the 50 years since 1947 and that the average growth rate in the period of economic history most closely comparable to the present one — the 1950s and



1960s was over 3 per cent. To justify its pessimism about the underlying rate of productivity growth in the British economy, the Treasury has to go all the way back to the mid-19th century. Only thus can it produce a slice of economic history bad enough to generate an average growth rate of 2.25 per cent (see top chart).

Unfortunately the Treasury does not explain what relevance the age of the steam-driven handlooms might have to contemporary events.

The Treasury also assumes that the level of capacity use, and of unemployment, attained by the economy today are the best that can be sustained without forcing inflation to accelerate.

Despite this slowdown, which would imply unemployment rising again from the middle of next year, the Treasury believes that inflation will accelerate over the next 12 months. This disquieting forecast is sharply at odds with the view of the Bank of England, which this month predicted that inflation would decline through next year. It seems to take no account of events in Asia and the deflationary pressures even in the strong American economy. The Treasury's anxiety about inflation also sits oddly with its assumption that the pound will remain at about its present level throughout next year. If the Treasury is right, then heaven forbid what might happen to inflation should the pound fall sharply, as the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England until recently believed that it should.

All this alarm about inflation comes back to the Treasury's assumption that the economy has already hit its capacity limits and that unemployment has fallen to its lowest sustainable rate. What the Treasury does not point out, however, is that equally "authoritative" studies were suggesting three years ago that the NAIRU was 9 per cent or even higher — or that in America estimates of this supposedly stable level of unemployment have declined year by year from more than 8 per cent to around 4 per cent today. There are, of course, plenty of econometric studies which claim to show that the lowest sustainable rate of unemployment — also known as the "Non Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment" or NAIRU — happens to be equal to the present unemployment rate, which the Treasury admits to be nearer 7 per cent, rather than the 5.1 per cent suggested by official figures.

As a result, the Treasury is forecasting a sharp slowdown in economic growth, from 3.5 per cent this year to between 2.25 and 2.75 per cent in 1998 and 1.5 to 2 per cent in 1999.

The most reasonable inference to draw from the economists' abysmal record in estimating this supposedly rock-bottom level of unemployment, is that the NAIRU, if it exists at all, can only be

## Airport users want high-quality shops

From the Director of Corporate and Public Affairs of BAA

Sir, Sir Terence Conran has used better columns of newspapers for some time to campaign about retailing at Heathrow, steadfastly refusing to acknowledge or accept the following facts:

First, we regularly interview hundreds of thousands of passengers to establish their views and needs; 90 per cent say they want to see high-quality shopping facilities at airports. Indeed, they want more.

Secondly, it is absurd to suggest that airports are really out-of-town shopping centres. The maximum space devoted to retail at any of our airports is 12 per cent. Of 55,888 people recently interviewed at Heathrow, only 89 were there purely to shop. And, frankly, they were misguided, because they could shop only landside, where inevitably there's a more limited range of shops than they could find in their local high street.

Thirdly, it is equally absurd to suggest that the taxpayer subsidises BAA via duty-free. The opposite is the case. It is the retailing that underpins the £1.5 billion BAA spends every day providing this country with its airport infrastructure in no other country in the world is this level of infrastructure provided to the coun-

## Prices charged by tax-free stores appear too high

From Mr Ken Graham

Sir, Does the arrogance of Des Wilson, commenting on behalf of BAA, reflect the attitude of the company to its customers, and taxpayers?

Regardless of Sir Terence Conran's motives and Mr Wilson's personal opinion of Sir Terence, the views are shared by many travellers such as myself.

I have long been appalled at the prices charged by "tax-free" stores, for goods which are sold at a slight discount to high street prices, and which, in no way reflect the saving made as a result of the absence of tax.

This is particularly illustrated in restaurants and bars at BAA sites, where the prices charged are often higher than those for identical products sold outside the airport, despite the absence of tax.

Mr Wilson should take note that Sir Terence certainly does speak for many passengers.

Yours faithfully,  
KEN GRAHAM,  
20 Kingston Avenue,  
Stony Stratford,  
Milton Keynes,  
Buckinghamshire,  
Ken.graham@bt.com

try free of charge. In addition, BAA is worth more than £500 million to the Exchequer via taxes of various kinds, VAT, airport duty, etc — a huge contribution.

Finally, Sir Terence questions our prices. Only a year back the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigated BAA's retailing and concluded: "BAA has ensured that prices are no higher than in high street outlets, and has increased choice, policies which, as shown in BAA's quality service monitor, are reflected in passengers' perception of genuinely good value for money. The general impression from this evidence is that passengers find the experience of passing through the three South East airports more enjoyable than was previously the case."

(I don't know whether Sir Terence drinks Bells Whisky, but he would have paid £17.10 for a litre in the high street last week and obtained one at Terminal 1 for £8.30).

Sir Terence's notoriety ensures he obtains publicity for his opinions; let's hope the facts will receive equal attention.

Yours faithfully,  
DES WILSON,  
Director of Corporate and Public Affairs,  
BAA,  
Corporate Office,  
130 Wilton Road, SW1.

## Duty-bound to point out Heathrow chaos

From Ms Jayne Barnard

Sir, I had to laugh when Des Wilson, speaking on behalf of BAA, claimed last week that his organisation had been working hard to create more retailing, rather than less chaos, at international airports because that is "what airport customers want".

I have exited the UK twice in the last six weeks, each time fully intending to purchase duty-free gifts. Instead, because of the lack of queue-control and other evidence of mismanagement at Heathrow, I found myself with only minutes to spare before departure. I never spent a cent. I must question whether this is what airport customers — let alone retailers — are seeking.

Yours sincerely,  
JAYNE BARNARD,  
42 Eton Avenue,  
London NW3.  
jwbarnard@fastcast.wm.edu

## Benefits of abolishing BAA's duty-free shops

From Mr Michael Boatman

Sir, As a frequent business traveller to the US and Europe, who passes through BAA terminals up to 50 times a year, I hasten to lend support to the comments of Sir Terence Conran (*The Times*, November 20).

My hope is that duty-free will be abolished by 1999 despite the current campaigns being waged by BAA and some airlines. I see the effects as wholly beneficial. There will be fewer shops in the departure lounges so more space for passengers to relax and much less congestion when they try to reach departure gates. Cabin baggage on European flights will reduce by 30 to 50 per cent, there will be space in the lockers and less fuel consumed. With less money for BAA from retail franchises we can expect a hefty increase, perhaps £10 per ticket, in airport taxes. It will hardly break the bank for

business trips but may reduce domestic and charter flights. Fewer flights, especially from Heathrow, should be a surer route to reducing congestion on approach roads than the high-speed rail link that was enunciated when the cross-rail scheme was cancelled. In addition, we all benefit from closure of a tax loophole, which is incompatible with the concept of "a single market".

Should anyone doubt that duty-free prices are a rip-off, I suggest they take a walk in Gibraltar town. Ordinary retailers sell whisky as low as £2 per standard bottle and even quality brands are below £6 per litre, around 50 per cent of BAA's "duty-free", "profit-intensive" prices.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BOATMAN  
Boatman Consulting,  
15 Ringwood Avenue,  
Redhill, Surrey  
boatmans@compuserve.com

## Financing of airport facilities

From Mr Gerald Clark

Sir, Des Wilson of BAA suggests that national airports and infrastructure are provided free of charge on the back of airport retailing operations. Having used Heathrow twice this past week, purchasing services and expensive catering en route, does he really expect me to believe that there were no charge elements for airport facilities included in the base cost of my airline ticket?

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD CLARK, 16 Mansel Street, Swansea.

## Happy to be identified as a nobody

From Mr Richard Griffith

Sir, Having read Sir Terence Conran's letter and Des Wilson's reply, the latter is a disgraceful and unjustified personal attack which reeks of guilt. I should be pleased to be identified as one of the nobodies to whom Des Wilson refers.

Yours anonymously,  
RICHARD GRIFFITH,  
Cuatro Vientos 31, Añaya,  
07811 Sant Vicent de sa Cala, Ibiza, Spain.

## Business ambassadors

nership we are developing with the private sector. In particular it gives the Foreign Office a better understanding of the needs of all exporters — large and small — and will complement the day to day commercial work of our posts overseas, much of which is devoted to helping small and medium sized exporters.

Indeed, 75 per cent of the chargeable work by our commercial sections is for companies with under 500 staff. Nor is this initiative at the expense of

## From the Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, You are, of course, right to conclude that Robin Cook's "idea of bringing business expertise to bear on the Foreign Office is admirable" (*City Editor's commentary*, November 25). I would, however, take issue with your suggestion that business leaders acting as ambassadors for Britain cannot do much to help small companies.

Nothing could be further from the truth. This latest initiative builds on the part-

## more funding for overseas trade fairs

The joint Foreign Office-DTI Export Forum study, initiated this summer, is aimed at improving assistance to smaller companies.

Margaret Becker has already announced the largest ever programme of support for UK exporters taking part in overseas trade fairs and outward missions in 1998-99.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK FATCHETT,  
Minister of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office, SW1.

## Mirror image

HELEN LIDDELL, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was at the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children the other day. Stalin's granny, as she is known to the pensions industry bosses, was giving a speech on pensions reform. Nothing like getting to them early, is there? But I have been forwarded a resumé of her career, as provided to the NSPCC by the Treasury to remind everyone who the guest speaker was. "Helen Liddell was formerly at the *Scottish Daily Record* and took part in the successful



flation of Mirror Group Newspapers." It says: "I suppose that's one way of putting it. Alternatively, 'Helen Liddell was one of the many sycophants who surrounded the late Robert Maxwell, took the Maxwell shilling and crawled largely unscathed from the wreckage' might have done just as well. Quite a few of those around. I still remember the day Peter Jay tried to bully me into withdrawing something I wrote about him while he was part of the same entourage. But we mustn't reopen old wounds, must we?"



● WHILE I have every sympathy for the employees of White Knight and three associated businesses where the DTI has just put in the official receiver, we can take some slight comfort from the collapse. White Knight and Sykes Corporate Recovery "provide insolvency advisory and related services to businesses in financial difficulty", says the DTI. The other two "provide debt avoidance and related services". Until they became casualties, I must assume, of the current economic boom.

## Radio ga-ga

A SPLENDID innovation at the Priory Hotel in Bath, owned by Andrew Brown-sword, the publicity-shy

of Bath rugby football club who made a reported £170 million fortune from selling his greetings card firm. In every room the Priory has genuine old-fashioned 1930s and 1940s wireless sets, those old brown bakelite jobs that a few readers may remember from the days before the Japanese ruled the consumer electronics industry. But the sets have been carefully customised so none can receive Mr Branson's Virgin FM service. Brownsword, it seems, cannot abide Chris Evans, the carrot-haired yob who does a comic turn on Virgin every morning.

● A WHILE back, Evans, the women's clothing retailer specialising in the larger figure, started an on-line mail order system, allowing customers to avoid the embarrassment of actually going into the shops and picking up their size 18s. The company seems to have tapped into a hidden market. Its research suggests most sales are to transvestites.

## Tidey sum

THE SUM of £2 million has been handed over by Associated British Foods to the director responsible for the sale of its Irish supermarkets in May. Donald Tidey retired in June and has departed with this reward for his "exceptional" service, according to the accounts. The sale booked a

£420 million profit for ABF, so perhaps shareholders should consider it money well spent, as Tidey was responsible for the growth of the chain before it was sold to Tesco. But some in the City believe there is more to the award than this.

Tidey became briefly famous when he was kidnapped by the IRA in the early 1980s and freed after a gun battle. He showed remarkable courage during his ordeal, and great resilience thereafter. Some wonder if the money was not, at least in part, ABF chairman Garry Weston's way of paying a tribute. Alas, Weston is notoriously secretive, and ABF was not returning calls yesterday.

MARTIN WALLER



Donald Tidey after his release from the IRA

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF GUINNESS

## The attitude was one of win at any price

The inspectors say they were faced constantly with untruthful, incomplete, and sharply conflicting testimony. They were often forced to decide between two or more accounts of events that were hopelessly at variance, relying on assessment of several witnesses and the plausibility of their testimony. On occasion they found themselves unable to accept any of the accounts. Below we extract the report on the Guinness affair.

WE WOULD, of course, have preferred our findings to have been made available more rapidly. Some of what occurred in 1986 has already been exposed to public gaze, as a result of the evidence given in the criminal proceedings, including substantial extracts from our interviews with some of the defendants. But much has not: many areas of the canvas remained unexamined in the criminal process. Nor has any systematic account of what happened ever been publicly available. This we hope now to provide. Despite a certain distance in the past, we believe the events we describe in this report retain not only interest, but current relevance.

Our repeated journeys over limited patches of territory were undoubtedly necessary, for from the start we were faced constantly with untruthful, in-

complete, and sharply conflicting testimony. We were often forced to decide between two or more accounts of events that were hopelessly at variance, relying upon our assessment of the several witnesses and the plausibility of their testimony. On occasion we found ourselves unable to accept — or to accept in its entirety — any of the accounts presented to us. We were also

## WITNESSES

confronted by the reverse problem, where witnesses had aligned their stories and evidence. This sometimes came to naught, when some of the witnesses were unable to withstand the pressure of sustained lying to us, or others were unable to provide satis-

factory answers to questions outside their "brief": sometimes, also, the common story was in itself implausible or the witnesses quite unconvincing in retelling it.

We were denied the evidence of two important witnesses: Thomas Ward, a Washington DC lawyer and former non-executive director of the company, and Ivan Boesky, the former US arbitrator. We tried on numerous occasions to interview Mr Ward, both in the UK and in the US. After much effort it became clear that Mr Ward did not intend to be interviewed by us, despite that, as a former officer of the company, he was bound to attend for interview if so requested under the terms of Section 434 of the Companies Act 1985. On March 15, 1994, the High Court made a committal order of six months' imprisonment against Mr Ward on the ground of his failure to comply with Section 434. A warrant for his arrest was issued and remains outstanding, capable of execution should he re-enter the UK. In failing to co-operate with our inquiry Mr Ward seriously failed in his duty as a director, and later former director, of an English company. As will appear from the body of this report, this was no more than the final chapter in the lengthy saga of Mr Ward's failings as an officer of Guinness.

Of Mr Boesky's failure to give oral evidence to us there is perhaps less to criticise. Unlike Mr Ward, he was not an officer, or former officer, of the company, and, being in the US and therefore out of the jurisdiction, was under no legal obligation to assist us. Nevertheless, Mr Boesky made much of his ready co-operation with the authorities and it is right to record that, so far as our inquiry was concerned, there were serious limits to that co-operation. Though his evidence would have been valuable, it was not in the event vital, and we do not believe that its absence has prevented us from establishing a substantially accurate picture of the events in which he was involved.



Gerald Ronson, the Heron chief, leaving a London court hearing in October 1987

## Ronson saw no reason for being excluded from the feast

WE HAVE had conflicting evidence as to the extent of Cazenove's freedom in the use of the firepower conferred on it by a JRH investment order (as increased in the course of the bid). Nils Taube, director of J Rothschild Holdings, and Nicholas Rodit told us that Cazenove had full discretion as to the timing and price of purchases. David Mayhew, a Cazenove partner, would report back the deals to Mr Taube after he had made them. While Mr Taube could, of course, express displeasure at that stage, in practice he only did so when the price reached 345/350p towards the end of the bid. Even then, Mr Taube's reaction was one of "if you must, you must", meaning that he would go along with such high prices if Mr Mayhew thought it necessary for the bid's success.

Mr Mayhew maintained, by contrast, that in the almost daily discussions, which (as is agreed by Mr Taube) Cazenove had with JRH on a range of dealing topics, advance approval was obtained to all purchases of Guinness shares, within agreed parameters of size and price. We think that the account given by Mr Taube and Mr Rodit is closer to the true picture. The possibility of purchases on a particular day would no doubt have featured in the regular discussions between Cazenove and JRH, but we do not believe that specific advance approval (even within parameters) was sought or given systematically in the way suggested by Mr Mayhew. Mr Taube was, of course, kept in the picture and had no objection to the way in which Cazenove was executing JRH's standing investment order, albeit he experienced and voiced some limited reluctance towards the end. That he could at any time have withdrawn the balance of that investment order, does not detract from the essential position that at significant moments in the bid Cazenove were in practice masters of a formidable reserve of purchase-power entrusted to them by JRH.

The use of several different brokers was designed to create the illusion of numerous buyers and hence greater activity and interest. Neither the indemnity nor purchases were disclosed under the City Code. Throughout the period of the bid Gerald Ronson was, as he told us, in regular contact with Mr Saunders, who would telephone him every ten days. What (if any) additional changes could assist in practice is a large subject but merits close examination by the Panel and its sponsoring bodies. Though our sensibilities may have been numbed by long confrontation with the evidence, three features still shine disturbingly through. Firstly, the cynical disregard of laws and regulations; secondly, the cavalier misuse of company monies; thirdly, a contempt for truth and common honesty: all these in a part of the City thought respectable.



Mayhew: daily discussions

## CAZENOVE

or so to ascertain Mr Ronson's views on market or City reaction to the Guinness bid. The two men also met over breakfast at the New Piccadilly Hotel on February 7, 1986, when Mr Saunders gave Mr Ronson a commission to value certain hotel properties owned by Distillers. This was no doubt the kind of business opportunity which Mr Ronson had hoped to encourage and to receive more of from an enlarged Guinness group in return for his supportive attitude on share purchases. His idea of an appropriate quid pro quo was, however, to grow more ambitious as those purchases increased.

The limit of £10 million was reached on February 19, 1986, at which point there was a pause before buying resumed on March 6, 1986. Mr Ronson appears to have agreed to a revised limit, probably of £15 million in the first instance, being raised in due course to £18 million. That new limit was reached on March 27, 1986. Mr Parnes sought still further purchases. Mr Ronson was prepared to contemplate a fresh ceiling of £25 million, but only on fresh terms. Rumours had reached him of fat success-related fees negotiated in both camps by banks and other advisers. Mr Ronson saw no

reason to be excluded from the feast: "I said to [Parnes] This is all very good stuff, but tell me if you are successful, what is our success fee if we go to £25 million? His reply was that he thought 20 per cent of the total exposure would be a reasonable success fee — I said, 'That may be your idea, but do you have the approval of the company?', to which he replied the following day that the answer was 'Yes'."

Quite apart from illegality and impropriety, the agreement and payment of a £5 million success fee reflects a remarkably cavalier approach to the use of Guinness funds. The indemnity protected Heron against both loss through a fall in the share price and against carrying costs (ie, interest). Accordingly, Mr Saunders caused Guinness to agree and pay to Heron a sum equivalent to 20 per cent of its capital outlay over and above the payment of conventional interest, though that capital was committed for only a very few months (much of it for much less), and was protected against any risk of loss.

Moreover, his agreement to a £5 million success fee secured for Mr Saunders only a modest increase in the firepower — perhaps in the region of £7 million. Mr Saunders was clearly so concerned to obtain any possible further support for the Guinness share price in the last two weeks of the bid that he was little interested in the cost of such support. The attitude was, it seems, one of "win at any price."

## An education from Parnes on bid battles

DURING the Bell's bid conducted by Guinness prior to bidding for Distillers Olivier Roux picked the brains of Anthony Parnes on the subject of market tactics in acquisition battles. He found it educative.

"Parnes told me that the City worked on the flowing and ebbing sentiments and whims which were largely dictated by the share price."

"It seemed to me a short-term view based on emotion at the expense of long-term fundamentals and careful analysis — I learnt from Parnes that market tactics were a natural and entirely accepted and necessary part of contested bids. These tactics involved purchasing shares in the offeree or opponent company as a blocking strategy or to unsettle the share price, organising supporters to purchase one's own company's shares to maintain price levels, or to purchase offeree's shares in order to have them used to boost acceptances of the offer."

"If supporters were involved it was the practice to make sure that any losses were covered through an informal agreement to that effect. He did imply however that one did run the risk of being reprimanded by the Takeover Panel if the supporters' dealings should have been disclosed but were not. He implied that this was a grey area and as most hostile bids involved these tactics and were therefore widespread there was no real cause for concern."

It became apparent that this view of market tactics in takeover battles was not restricted to Mr Parnes. An increased offer by Argyl and clearance from the NMC put pressure on Guinness to raise its offer, and there was considerable discussion and argument. Mr Saunders was most anxious to increase the offer, but most of the advisers, in particular Cazenove and Morgan Grenfell, were strongly opposed to this. Mr Saunders' histrionic reaction at one stage was to ask loudly for the telephone number of SG Warburg, hinting that a less pusillan-

## THE TACTICS

mous merchant bank would do his bidding. Eventually, he yielded and agreed that the offer would not be increased, and an announcement to this effect was made on April 3, 1986.

From March 20, 1986, the day before Argyl's third offer, to the high point of the Guinness share price on April 14, 1986, the share price moved from 298p to 353p, an increase of 18.5 per cent against a fall of 0.2 per cent in the FTSE 100 index. During the same period the Argyl share price rose 8.9 per cent. Despite such general indications that the market in Guinness shares was not a normal one during the period of the bid, we were not prepared for the enormity of the support operation as revealed by a detailed analysis of transactions.

We found that some 78 million Guinness shares (some 25 per cent of the issued share capital) were purchased by supporters of the Guinness cause from January 20 to April 18, 1986, more than half being bought in the last two weeks. The supporters were: J Rothschild Holdings, Ronson interests, Mrs. Seilberger-Simon, Henry Ansbacher clients, LF Rothschild, Guinness Pension Funds, Schenley Industries Inc, CIECO and Berisford Capital Corporation, Z-Bank, Mr Boesky's interests, Bank Leu, Mr Saunders, Sir Jack Lyons & clients, Furstenberg, Morgan Grenfell.



Parnes: risk of reprimand

## A contempt for truth in part of City thought respectable

## CONCLUSIONS

THAT this market support operation was an enterprise of deception, there can be no doubt. It is impossible to tell the extent to which the deception succeeded in fact. It was widely known throughout the market that there was extensive buying of Guinness shares: cynical references to support operations appeared in the press. It is unlikely that many holders of a large block of Distillers shares would have taken the share price at face value or expected that it would necessarily survive at that level after the close of the bid.

In the present case, however, we feel that even a sceptical holder of Distillers shares might well have underestimated the remarkable extent of the support operation and the corresponding discount which should be made for it. And not all holders of Distillers shares would have been sufficiently sophisticated or well-informed to ignore the current share price in reaching their decision on which offer to accept, or whether to sell in the market.

We can see no reason why an operation with such deceptive purpose should be regarded as acceptable. In the most fundamental sense, it aims at the creation of a false market: the company or its agents or advisers set out to move the share price to an artificial level by procuring or stimulating purchases not motivated by considerations related to the investment potential of the stock, their involvement or its nature being concealed to avoid exposing the contrivances underlying the resulting price. To date, perhaps, while awaiting our report, the Takeover Panel has taken no action arising out of the share support operation. It has, however, reacted to the concerted party purchase of 10.6 million Distillers shares on April 17, 1986. On September 2, 1987 the Panel ordered Guinness to pay compensation to Distillers shareholders who might have opted for

a cash alternative increased in accordance with Rule 11.1. Though no doubt the result of practical considerations which we well understand, this approach was based on an unreal premise.

If, before the end of the bid, the Panel had been duly apprised of the concerted nature of the purchase, it would have had to rule that the bid must lapse, no increase in the offer being possible in the last 14 days of the bid, or — possibly — to order a divestment of the shares. No question would thus have arisen of extending the price of 731p to all Distillers shareholders. In practice, if disclosure had ever been contemplated, the shares would never have been purchased. What effect the excess concerted purchases had on the outcome of the rival bids is an impossible speculation, but it is conceivable that without their success might have gone to Argyl.

The compensation to former Distillers shareholders resulting from the Panel's ruling was in the region of £65 million. That is a figure which Mr Saunders — and perhaps more neutral observers — would almost certainly have regarded as a reasonable additional expense to secure Distillers. Once consummated, a takeover cannot realistically be reversed and the case illustrates the difficulty of providing ex post facto justice for a losing contestant or accepting shareholders.

What (if any) additional changes could assist in practice is a large subject but merits close examination by the Panel and its sponsoring bodies. Though our sensibilities may have been numbed by long confrontation with the evidence, three features still shine disturbingly through. Firstly, the cynical disregard of laws and regulations; secondly, the cavalier misuse of company monies; thirdly, a contempt for truth and common honesty: all these in a part of the City thought respectable.

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The closing date for applications is 5th December 1997.

Full details of the school may be found on page 954 of the Independent Schools Yearbook. Full details will only be sent to short-listed candidates.

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# EDUCATION

## Are there too many appeals?

**John O'Leary on girls' schools' worries about A-level reviews**

Parents could have been forgiven for feeling themselves the victims of the piece at this week's Girls' Schools Association (GSA) conference, which ends in Bristol today. The headlines have been captured by their supposed mollycoddling of children and their role in encouraging eating disorders because of alleged susceptibility to the arguments of food fetishists. The predicted apprehension of parents about the impact of partnerships with state schools was also among the chief concerns of Stephen Byers, the Schools Minister.

Away from the conference platform, however, headmistresses were worrying about another trait of the assertive customer, which some think could distort the educational process. Parents have noted the publicity over the success of challenges to A-level grading, and are demanding a second opinion when results fall short of expectations. Leading girls' schools are also calling for a review of A-level procedures because they fear that pressure from parents to challenge grades is creating an appeals culture that threatens the credibility of the examination.

The number of appeals has risen sharply: the Associated Examining Board (AEB) reports a 32 per cent increase this year alone. Although only one school can challenge a result, the high success rate has encouraged parents to demand appeals when university places are at stake.

GSA research found that its members had each challenged about 11 results last year. More than 350 of the 900 appeals covered by the survey were successful and only two led to grades being reduced. London-based members of the GSA, which include several of the schools at the top of last week's league tables, have demanded action to reduce the number of appeals and to tighten up marking enough to cut the proportion of candidates being upgraded.

Clarissa Parr, Headmistress of Queenswood School, in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, said: "The volume of appeals is absolutely ridiculous and it is putting schools that cannot afford to appeal at an unfair disadvantage. If something is wrong with the whole credibility of the examining system will be in question."

Rosanne Randle, Headmistress of Dame Alice Harpur School, Bedford, who chairs the GSA's education committee, said: "Five years ago head teachers would have resisted a parent's request to appeal unless they were absolutely certain that an injustice had been done, but they cannot be confident that grades will be confirmed. The uncertainty puts us in an invidious position, which needs to be addressed by the new qualifications authority."

Jacqueline Lang, the GSA's president and Headmistress of Walthamstow Hall, in Sevenoaks, Kent, said: "The problem is most serious in English, but it is evident in all the subjects which involve essay-writing and opinions. It has got to the point where some schools feel they might as well appeal about everything. You cannot have a situation where you assume that the results are wrong until proved otherwise."

As well as costing some students a place at their chosen university, schools' results are underestimated in the league tables. Mrs Lang said: "A couple of extra grades can make all the difference to a school's score."

George Turnbull, a spokesman for the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance, which includes the AEB, said: "We are as concerned as the schools about the development of a culture in which appealing becomes the first port of call. The system was not designed to accommodate this sort of volume of inquiries. It was meant to be a safety net for people who had been expected to do very much better than their results suggested."

Mr Turnbull said that most appeals could not result in grades being lowered, so schools felt they had nothing to lose. A levels were closely moderated, but some regrading was inevitable if papers were re-marked, especially in arts subjects.



On your marks: more and more parents are challenging A-level results when university places are at stake

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## Scene set for pay battle

Members of the teachers' pay review body reportedly looked "horrified" earlier this month when local authority employers demanded a below inflation rise for next year.

The employers' call for a 2.5 per cent settlement was followed this week by an unprecedented "reminder" to public sector pay bodies from Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for pay restraint.

Just weeks after the Government launched a £10 million drive to promote the profession, teachers look like receiving their lowest pay rise for a decade. Classroom unions, which submitted a 10 per cent claim, predictably have accused ministers and employers of a topsy-turvy approach to raising morale and improving the image of teaching.

But employers argue that the Government will fail to meet its pledge to reduce class sizes unless it awards a below-inflation rise. Moreover, they say there is no recruitment crisis.

Graham Lane, chairman of the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers, says: "Teacher recruitment is not a problem - there are 15 teachers chasing every job in Sheffield. There are no vacancies for head teachers in England. There have always been a few problem subject areas but you don't find more maths or modern language teachers by giving an above-inflation pay rise to all teachers."

The employers are known to be lobbying hard to have the pay review body itself scrapped. Mr Lane adds: "Teachers' pay has gone up by 100 per cent in ten years while inflation stands at 68 per cent. They have done better than anyone else in local government, including the police." He argues that more people would become trainee teachers if classes were smaller and working conditions better.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, says the review body should treat the Government's target for class limits of 30 for five, six and seven-year-olds separately from salary.

"If the Government does not get enough money from phasing out the Assisted Places Scheme to meet its class size targets, it has to find more money from somewhere else, not from teachers' pay," he says.

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telling the Government to find the money."

Mr Brown called the public sector pay review chairmen together on Tuesday to drive home his pay policy message. Head teachers sense that the intervention means the writing is on the wall for next year's pay round - and perhaps even for the future of the review body, which makes its recommendations in January.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, says: "This was an outrageous interference with the independence of the pay review body. I hope it will resist this pressure and make recommendations that are in the interests of the education service, even if they are not to the liking of the Government."

DAVID CHARTER

Brown: pay restraint

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### CASE STUDY

LOUISE NICHOL had set her heart on a place at Cambridge after surviving two days of tests and interviews at Girtton College. All she needed were three top-grade A levels, John O'Leary writes.

Havant College, in Hampshire, was confident that she would get them, and the exams in English, French and Spanish went well. But her plans fell apart when the results arrived. She had dropped to a B in English, and Girtton was over-subscribed with those who had met their targets.

"It seemed grossly unfair," Louise said. "I had worked so hard to get the grades I thought I deserved. I was distraught when I got that B."

Both the college and Louise's mother Sue, a teacher at St Paul's School, London, were so convinced that the grade was wrong that they launched an immediate appeal. The Associated Examining Board agreed, but the amended result took eight weeks to come through, by which time Louise had started a languages degree at University College London.


Girtton offered a place in 1998, but said Louise had missed too much of the course to be admitted this term. "Having a year off now would be such an upheaval," Louise said. "I'm not sure I could face another change, especially when I'm settled and enjoying the course."

Both Louise and her mother are angry that the process has cost her the chance of a Cambridge degree. "After two days of interviews and tests, I think the college had a far better picture of me than they could ever have got through A levels," Louise said. "Yet they were all that counted."

Sue Nichol said: "As a teacher, I see all the time how unpredictable A levels are in subjects like English, history and art. This is a typical example of the student suffering when she has done everything right."

## EDUCATIONAL

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John Rae on a scheme to persuade parents of the benefits of boarding

## When boarding is best

The police investigation into child pornography which included raids on two boarding schools could not have been more badly timed for the Boarding Education Alliance (BEA).

Its birth this week passed almost unnoticed after it sensibly decided, in consultation with its public relations advisers, on a low-key launch.

The aim of the BEA, which represents 180 schools, is to sell boarding education in an increasingly sceptical and shrinking market. The number of boarders in independent schools has fallen by 28 per cent in the past ten years. Boarding education may not be in terminal decline but it is no longer the preferred option for middle-class parents. High fees, the overriding importance of academic qualifications and the stubborn image of dormitories where bullying goes unchecked, all help to convince parents that a good independent or maintained day school is the answer. Why spend £12,000 a year when you can have at least as good an education for half the price or for nothing?

If the BEA is to be successful, it will have to persuade parents not only that the stubborn images are outdated but that the boarding experience has something distinctive to offer.

The former should not be too difficult. There are boarding schools where change has been superficial - colour-coordinated curtains and bedspreads - but most have undergone profound changes. It is no longer true, for example, that bullying is more likely to flourish in a boarding than day school: on the contrary, the tighter pastoral structure of a good boarding school, including access to a counsellor, probably means that bullying is picked up and dealt with more quickly.



The film *Another Country* questioned the boarding idea

Persuading parents of the special quality of boarding should not be difficult, either. What is distinctive about boarding schools is not that they develop character and leadership but that they offer a fuller, more rounded education. In this they have three advantages over day schools: the availability of staff and the excellence of facilities. If an important part of education is to discover what you have an aptitude for and to be encouraged in that aptitude, a good boarding school provides opportunities that few day schools can match. As one parent said: "Boarding maximises the children's potential."

Boarding schools also offer parents a wider choice. Small day schools are rare. Small boarding schools, such as St Anne's in Windermere or the even smaller New School in Dunkeld, that excel in helping the slower or "more fragile" child, are one of the strengths of the boarding sector. There are day schools, such as

George Watson's in Edinburgh, that successfully integrate pupils who need learning support, but most of the good learning support units are in boarding schools.

Or is it true that for academic excellence parents should look to the great urban day schools. The most successful school since A-level league tables were introduced is Winchester, a boarding school. Other boarding schools figure prominently in the upper reaches of these tables, despite having to fill beds as best they can.

Manchester Grammar School may have five candidates of equal ability for each place, but it is hard-pushed to compete academically with some of the girls' boarding schools that do not have that luxury. The less hectic academic atmosphere of these boarding schools can deliver A-level results that are arguably more impressive than those of the day schools.

I am not suggesting that boarding schools are better than day schools or vice versa, just that boarding may suit some children better. The case for boarding is often expressed in terms of what suits different categories of parents - lone parents, both parents working, parents who live overseas. But boarding may also suit the child from a traditional family living two miles from the school, particularly over the period of adolescence.

The family is the theatre in which most young people act out the rites of passage, but boarding schools offer a legitimate alternative. The rebellious adolescent takes on the school rather than his or her parents. For two thirds of the year, the school absorbs the strain. That may suit some adolescents as much as it suits their parents.

In fact, it is the contemporary adolescent lifestyle that presents the boarding schools with their most difficult problem. By being more open to parents and allowing their pupils to have regular contact with home, boarding schools have encouraged the view that there should not be such a contrast between the lifestyle at home and the lifestyle at school. The BEA emphasises that boarding schools now try to "reproduce the lifestyle of home".

The more boarding schools try to reproduce the lifestyle of home, the more difficulties they may make for themselves. It would be a pity if just when boarding schools are dispelling outdated images and modernising so many aspects of their operation, they forget that one of the attractions of boarding school, for both parents and pupils, is that it is not like home.

● The BEA National Information Line is 0171-388 8866. Dr Rae's book Letters to Parents will be published in January.



If your heart tugs you in one direction and your head in another, do you try to stand still? Clearly that would be biologically unwise. Your body would snap. But that is more or less the attitude of our museums and galleries to the vexed matter of admission charges.

Few people would raise a rousing cheer if charges were imposed by the institutions that still maintain free public entry. The heart says no. The evidence also says no, in the sense that most of it (though not all) suggests that attendances would decline.

Yet nobody would be chuffed if a national glory like the British Museum went bust. True, the BM's financial methods were, until recently, skimping to the point of invisibility. The mummified Egyptians who line the BM's halls were certainly accustomed to less primitive accountancy procedures in their former lives.

Even so, the fact is that, even if it were better managed, the BM would probably still need to increase its income. Since that

## The charge of the cobwebbed brigade

increase won't come from politicians, it must come from punters. Therefore the head reluctantly says yes to charges. And not only at the BM, but at all institutions that have clung to free entry.

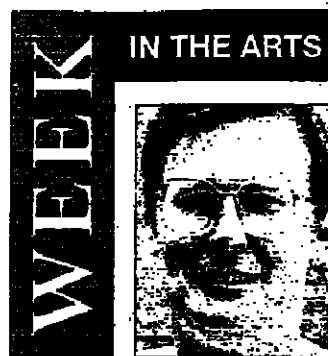
The question now is, does head or heart win? This week the "heart" brigade has been in full, hysterical cry. They suspect that a Labour Party which piously abhors museum charges while in Opposition has now executed a U-turn. They are right to suspect. Labour will find not a penny more for culture. So, short of robbing the Peters of the performing arts to pay the Pauls of the museums, the Culture Secretary has no option but to be pragmatic. Next week he is likely to tell the museums to charge away, if that is what it takes to keep them in business.

Will that be sad? Again, the heart says yes. A few Saturdays ago I had an hour to kill in London

with my three children. We went to the National Gallery. The atmosphere was chaotic but exhilarating. Tots thronged round Turners, adolescent eyes grew saucer-wide at the fleshly exuberance of the randier Old Masters. No space for peaceful contemplation here — but my goodness, the place was alive.

You will guess my next sentence. We might not have dropped into the National Gallery on impulse if entry had involved the swift removal of £25. Nor would scores of other families that day. Parting with serious money would have turned the whole thing into a big-deal cultural expedition. I would have forced the kids to trudge round every damn canvas to get our tickets' worth. They would have made an Oedipal mental note to avoid Daddy's favourite art gallery for the rest of their lives.

So I have some sympathy with those who argue that free muse-



RICHARD MORRISON

ums foster cultural appreciation in ways that are unquantifiable and subliminal. But isn't there a sleight-of-hand illogicality here? After all, it is just as important that I induct my children into the pleasures of the National Theatre,

the Albert Hall, Lord's Cricket Ground and Arsenal Football Club. Each is as much part of our cultural heritage as the National Gallery. Yet I don't expect the family to get in free.

That is why I object to the gallions of sentimental tosh in the newspapers this week. A turnstile at the BM does not signal the end of civilisation. It might just help to preserve it. Nor will it "discourage working-class people". Alton Towers is packed with ordinary folk who pay a hefty wedge to get in. The fact is that the public is attracted by atmosphere, imagination, excitement, friendliness and good marketing, not by free entry. Some of the world's greatest museums charge for entry and are packed. Others are free but as lively as morgues at midnight. Indeed, without any financial pressure to pull in punters, curators easily settle into cobwebbed old ways.

Which raises another point. At the last count, Britain had 2,500 museums, some of them staffed with hundreds of curators, guards and administrators. Is the huge expansion of the past 20 years (now intensified by lottery hand-outs) satisfying a genuine demand, or the empire-building lusts of curators? Is the public being taken for a gentle ride? If so, the case for free admission becomes even weaker. Let the bracing gale of market forces blow away the duds.

The trouble is that museum directors are too busy manning the barricades to think positively about the advantages of admission charges. Yes, chaps, advantages. For instance, the museums should study the tactics of English Heritage. After you have visited one of their castles, you are offered a membership deal that gets you into all the others. What's

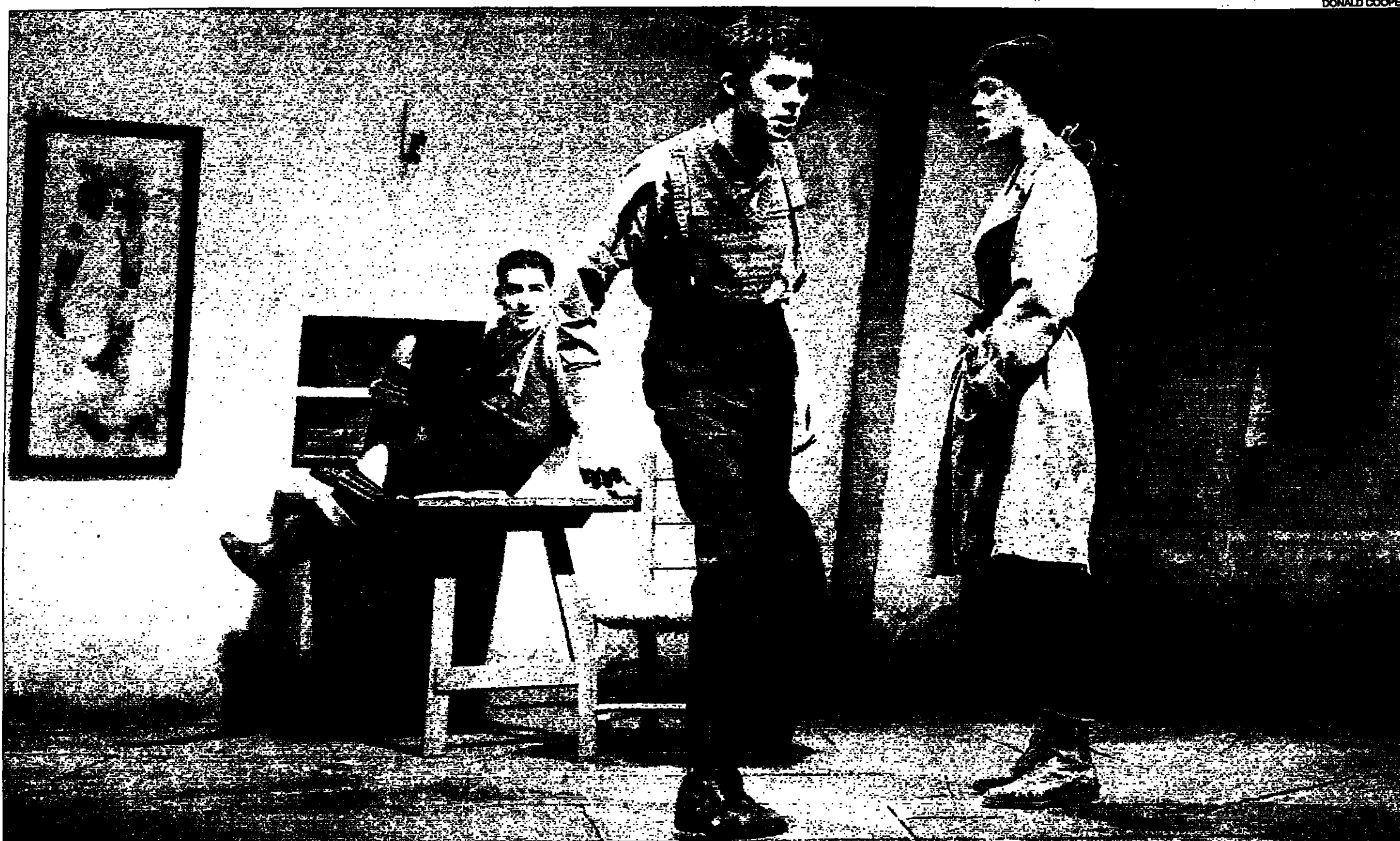
more, your admission charge for that day is refunded.

It's clever marketing. Britain's museums should be uniting to devise something similar. The Dutch already have. And they should be concocting deals with the tourist trade, so that foreign visitors are sold comprehensive museum passes as part of their travel packages.

In short, instead of clinging to paternalistic Victorian ideals, museums should be planning how to compete with the myriad leisure attractions of the 21st century. They urgently need to revolutionise their marketing, inject some thrills into their displays, invest in kiddle-gripping interactive technology, exploit their collections on the Internet. To do that they need money. Admission charges will supply it. Nothing else will.

But in their present siege mentality, museum bosses won't admit this. What a pity. We will waste years in argument and financial turmoil, and then end up with admission charges anyway. But that's British cultural life for you.

**THEATRE:** One of the National's most successful plays has upset disabled people, Sue Corbett reports. Plus reviews



Owen Sharpe, Ruaidhri Conroy and Aisling O'Sullivan in the National's production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan*: disabled people say they were upset that the central figure was the butt of so many jokes

## A very modern monster

A PRISON warden calls Roberto Zucco, who has just killed his father, an example of "sheer evil" and "a wild, violent, animal bastard". But the speaker belongs to the same law-and-order system that proceeds to threaten a harmless young woman with violence in a "torture chamber". Later the same girl's brother, enraged that Zucco has raped her, also calls the criminal "evil". Yet his own next move is to sell his sister to a local pimp. What is going on in the unnamed but recognisably French city where Bernard-Marie Koltès set the play he finished just before he died of an AIDS-related disease in 1989?

If a radical British dramatist of that era had penned Roberto Zucco, the answer would have been pretty clear. A corrupt, hypocritical capitalist society created a killer who, as it turns out, manages also to knock off his mother, a policeman and a child. But Koltès's ideology is not so glib, nor his diagnosis so neat. Roberto Zucco — a real-life

murderer and suicide — emerges as an end-of-millennium version of Büchner's Woyzeck: a zonked boy who blunders about wreaking havoc without wanting to or knowing why.

That's what makes the character and the play interesting and disturbing. You believe his mother when, just before he strangles her, she says that Roberto has been "good for 24 years". You believe those who call him gentle and sweet, because, as Zucco's father plays the role, there is always something vulnerable, almost baffled about him. He seems to be without motive, at times without identity. When people ask him his name, he has genuine trouble remembering. He is unrecognisable, modern and terrifying.

I don't think Koltès comes anywhere near proving Zucco's contention that, if the right switch were pressed, we would "all start murdering each other". But, helped by Martin Crimp's deft translation and James Macdonald's stark, sinister production at Stratford's Other Place, he certainly creates an unsettling atmosphere. The world has shrunk to a corridor of grey light peopled by the frustrated and the bewildered, the angry and the despairing. Little wonder that Zucco babbles into a phone about wanting to be reincarnated as a stray dog: little wonder there is nobody at the other end.

With a drunken father reeling across the stage threatening to beat up whoever has hidden his booze and violent policemen, tarts and bouncers also making their weight felt, Koltès's metropolis has the random, chaotic feel of Howard Korder's New York or the London of our own young chroniclers of urban ennui.

But there are one or two scenes that few late-20th-century pessimists have bettered, prime among them one where an armed Roberto holds hostage Diana Kent's socialite and her son. It is not just that she clearly finds the experience an exhilarating release from boredom. It is that the violence occurs to the accompaniment of a chorus of onlookers, voyeurs interested only in bickering about their own roles in the crisis. It's awful, funny and true. So is the play.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## A ripple of disapproval

A spot of embarrassment is heading the National Theatre's way next Tuesday. Its 1996-97 staging of Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan* is expected to receive a Raspberry Ripple Award for the year's worst theatre portrayal of a disabled person. This, and other awards for best and worst portrayals of disabled people in the arts and media, will be made by the I in 8 Group, which lobbies against disabled people (one in eight of the population) being seen as tragic, evil, heroic or comic, rather

than as part of ordinary life. The embarrassment to the National is double-edged, since I in 8 and the theatre have generally been on friendly terms. The National's former artistic director, Sir Richard Eyre, had even offered the group free use of one of his foyers for next Tuesday's ceremony, an offer it turned down when it decided to

televise the awards. "But the Raspberry Ripple Awards are not meant to be heavy," says Susie Burrows, the I in 8 spokeswoman. "We are not intending to castigate the National. We are just giving people a chance to think about the issues."

Nevertheless the group, which sent out 5,500 ballot papers to its 1,000 members

and other interested parties, found there was a "spontaneous eruption" of feeling against *The Cripple of Inishmaan*. Some voters were so shocked that they left the theatre at the interval, and one disabled man, who had begun to think the audience would laugh at him if he went to the bar, felt compelled to stay in his seat at half-time.

"People were upset by the play because the disabled character was the butt of so many jokes," says Richard Reiser, the Raspberry Ripple (rhymes with cripple) co-ordinator. "The play was supposedly educational, but when I saw it the audience was joining in laughing at the disabled person's expense. If you'd put a black man in such a role, with racist jokes, there would have been uproar."

A snatch of the McDonagh's dialogue illustrates what Reiser means: "What would I want to go out walking with a

cripple-boy for?" one character asks. "It isn't out walking you'd be anyways, it would be out shuffling, because you can't walk."

"Eyre had told me they had a play coming up that I wouldn't like because of the title," Reiser says. "He was right. The word cripple is gratuitously offensive. The assumption presumably was that the audience was sophisticated enough to say: 'Oh, we don't use that word.' But that's not true. We're not at that stage."

In fact, the title was the least of our worries. The play did not in any way enhance Reiser's perceptions of the issues, and what is the theatre if it does not change and inform attitudes? These are some of the ideas we'd like to take forward now with Richard Eyre's successor."

The able-bodied teenage actor Ruaidhri Conroy received glowing reviews for his acting

in the title role. But disabled actors complain that this robbed them of their best stage opportunity for years. "I can't believe the National couldn't find a disabled actor," says Jamie Beddard, who has cerebral palsy and performs with the Tooting Bipedes Company. "If able-bodied actors get to play disabled roles, why doesn't the reverse happen?"

The National's casting director, Serena Hill, explains her difficulty: "It wasn't clear until we got to rehearsals exactly what the character's disability would be. But the age (17 to 18), the soul of this man, and the fact that he should be authentically Irish — were clear. Those were the priorities. Disabled or otherwise, it was going to be hard to find an actor that young with the right experience."

"There wasn't any contest once we'd seen Ruaidhri.

There was a disabled actor on my initial list: he was too old really for the part, but he had many of the qualities we wanted. We would have seen him except that he turned out no longer to be available."

For Reiser, that is unacceptable. "Until theatres like the National start casting disabled people in more minor roles, people are not going to have the experience to come through and do major parts. We need cross-casting, as applies now with black actors. Disabled actors shouldn't have to play stereotypes."

Meanwhile, smaller companies seem to be taking the lead. It is good news that Tooting Bipedes is on the I in 8 shortlist for best theatre production of 1997, "for casting Jamie Beddard in a leading role in *Waiting for Godot*, and making his impairment an integral part of the production."

If you want to help I in 8 to monitor portrayals of disabled people for next year's awards, write to them at 78 Midway Grove, London N1 4PL, enclosing SAE. The Raspberry Ripple Awards ceremony will be shown by Channel 4 on Wednesday at 11.50pm.

## Breaks into laughter

Bazaar Ambassadors

fish fingers," muses Adrian Edmondson's Anton cheerfully.

This is the second of three staged pieces in the Royal Court's New European Writers' Season and what is already becoming apparent is how fiendishly difficult it is to appropriate the work of these young writers without erasing the context. But John Clifford's translation makes a difficult script sound easy.

Cultural differences between characters swell like varicose veins as the 20-second video clip takes 12 hours to reconstruct. Potentially interesting flashpoints are set up, but they give way to crude comedy when the video veers farcically out of control. It's probably a saving grace.

Planell tries to put an undue amount of moral weight into the bottom end of his script by getting Rashid to lecture Hassan on the danger of being estranged from his past. It's a pretty hopeless piece of ballast. When it is discovered that Hassan is prepared to get on TV at all costs, *Bazaar* suddenly becomes bizarre. Roxana Silbert's production tilts alarmingly one way then the other, before lurching to an unexpectedly wholesome stop.

The most successful moments are the delicious, incidental off-stage details. Anton, we hear, fails to hit any of his mattresses. Sounding eerily like Alison Steadman in *Abigail's Party*, Edmondson's newly smashed-up summan emerges triumphant for a final round of tactless observations. Something far darker and more desperate is demanded of Edmondson at this point, but it escapes him completely. Woodson has little more success as a reborn Moor, and Sharron's Rashid has the unenviable task of playing the conscience of the piece. But it is the ending that will be remembered, it is the endearing way Planell's play got there without crutches.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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TOP TEN ALBUMS

WINNER REE  
ARTHBO



# Rejoice! Rejoice! Britpop is dead

The jig is up, the hype exposed, and now Oasis, Pulp and the rest will have to do a proper job

The whole thing about euphoria is that you are only supposed to sample it in tiny nips and delicious sips. It is finger food, not something you could live off, lest your stomach turn to acid. It needs to be augmented with progress, achievement, reflection, knowledge and something stodge and carbohydrate, like work. Britpop, which was played entirely on one emotional note — cocaine-induced euphoria — was always destined to have a short life.

It has dated horribly. Anything promoted on Britpop photography seems almost sepia-toned and lame in the dying moments of 1997. The Spice Girls — Union Jack dresses, Great British crisps, the tabloid version of Britpop — come across as exhausted kitsch dinosaurs. The big Pulp comeback single, *Help the Aged*, went in at only No 9. Echobelly and Sleeper — always the limping, lion-fodder antelopes in the Britpop herd — have both released catastrophically unsuccessful albums. Supergrass, despite making one of the best albums of the year, have seen it sell dismally in the backwash. Black Grape are no longer something you'd get excited about. Blur have distanced themselves entirely from Britpop.

And Oasis? Well, they are hardly dead in the water, having sold three million copies of *Be Here Now*, but the thrill has gone. When Chris Evans — not the most intellectually gifted of men, but one able to sniff out a cultural trend the way rats can scent a dropped Big Mac from 800 yards — tried, and failed, to resuscitate a copy of *Be Here Now* with defibrillators on *TFI Friday*, he got it bang on. Britpop is dead.

The real story behind Britpop explains why it could

never have lasted that long. Back in 1993, the British music industry was in serious trouble. Although it was as it has always been, Britain's third biggest grosser, the trend was definitely downward. Grunge had made British bands seem hopelessly out of date and provincial to the international market, and the only British acts that were selling were the old warhorses — Phil Collins, Fink Floyd — and one-hit or two-hit wonder dance artists. The industry hated and still hates dance artists — impossible to promote, short shelf-life, no personalities to hang merchandise off, and completely alienating for anyone over the age of 30.

So when Suede came along, corduroy trousers full of credibility, frontman voluble and photogenic, and musical reference points (Bowie, Smiths, Kate Bush) that got the over-thirties buying, a lightbulb appeared over the heads of the industry. Suede came from the "indie" world, so maybe there was more of this lovely marketable stuff in the alternative ghetto.

Bingo! The indie world finally got a big promotional push. But not the weirder stuff, not sonic experimentalists Spiritualized, or the Krautrock balladeering of Julian Cope, or the crumple futurism of Stereolab; just the retro, comfortably familiar guitar bands.

And so Britpop was spawned, a movement not

born of any musician-led collectivism, or a groundswell of new noise, but conceived in the sterile petri dish of press and marketing, and weaned on cocaine.

The coke euphoria lasted two years, and spawned ridiculous claims on behalf of Britpop — that London was the coolest city on earth (Reykjavik or New York, surely); that England was swinging once again (not after 1945); and that Britain had asserted its "rightful" place as the creative focus of the world.

This was the cocaine talking it more than the music could walk it. While Blur, Oasis *et al* were selling well in Japan and Europe, America was roundly unimpressed by Mod haircuts and youthful recycling of the Beatles' back-catalogue — and without breaking the American market no act or movement can claim to be a global cultural force.

Still, the teeth-grinding hyperbole rolled on. Oasis's gig at Knebworth in 1996 prompted an editorial in the *NME* claiming that Noel was "the king of the world", on the basis that he was the "most important man in Britain". This was ridiculous wishful thinking.

As Björk explained in a recent interview: "All cultures — the Romans and the Egyptians and the English and the Americans — they all have climates, and they just want to stay there. A hundred years

ago you had Great Britain, which is hilarious if you think about it. Can you imagine a Great Iceland?"

Britain's peak was indeed in the late Victorian/early Edwardian years. The Sixties were a small economic and cultural blip. And anyway, as hippy dress was based on Edwardian clothing, even the Sixties were an exercise in nostalgia.

As Britpop was, in the main, nostalgia for the Sixties it was, at root, another mournful longing for the days of Empire and global dominance. This was why cocaine was so integral to Britpop. Cocaine allows you to believe that you are living in the best of all possible times, in the best of all possible countries; rather than accepting that we are down the global economic table and creatively behind the American East Coast hip hop collective.

Britain isn't great any more. The Beatles could never have existed in the Nineties. John Lennon would have shrunk from taking out a student loan and gone to work on a building site to earn cash. Paul McCartney would have been on a Restart scheme filing papers in a solicitors' office.

Britpop was a little, local thing, but we had to pretend it was the biggest news since the Moon landings because to admit that it was merely the 19th most exciting cultural trend in the past ten years would have been to lose face.

Bizarrely, it was the death of Princess Diana that finally put Britpop into perspective. That was global interest in Britain. Britpop, by comparison, was akin to the retirement of Humphrey the Downing Street cat. And now it is over. What comes next is the interesting part.



It's no use begging, Jarvis Cocker; you and the rest of Pulp have had your day. The Britpop bubble has burst

## Tears in spades for the queen of hearts

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
*Diana, Princess of Wales Tribute*  
(The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund Ltd. VVRI001052; two discs £18.99)  
DOUBTLESS we all hold her memory dear. And many charities will benefit from this musical "celebration of the life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales". But any album that includes a few new songs and a lot of old ones from Sir Cliff Richard, Sir Paul McCartney, Rod Stewart, Barbara Streisand, Celine Dion, Michael Jackson, Queen, Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Bryan Ferry, Diana Ross, the Bee Gees, George Michael, Tina Turner, Toni Braxton with Kenny G, Gloria Estefan and Michael Bolton, most of them in full, power-ballad batteary, is going to tax the capacity for sentimental gush of even the most respectful listener.

There are songs which, in a less oppressive context, one would not hesitate to describe as great: Eric Clapton's *Tears in Heaven*, R.E.M.'s *Everybody Hurts*, Passengers & Pavlov's *Miss Sarajevo*, the Spice Girls' *Mama*, and a

stark, achingly beautiful new song by Peter Dinklage called *In the Sun*, with the simple, heartfelt refrain: "May God's love be with you, always."

But the cumulative effect of so much emotion leaves precious little room for either musical nuance or an individual response to these songs. The contributions merge into one long, stage-managed *crêpe de coeur* from the pop establishment that, for all its good intentions, is about as stirring as a nice pot of tea.

**GARTH BROOKS**  
*Sevens*  
(Capitol 56599 £19.49)  
His previous album, *Fresh Horses*, was judged to have performed poorly because it sold "only" four million copies in America, and the corporate structure of Capitol Records had to be altered to his satisfaction before he would allow the record company to release *Sevens*. But despite wielding phenomenal clout and a business brain as sharp as a man-trap, Garth Brooks still purveys in his music the homespun wisdom of a simple country boy on the make.

### NEW POP ALBUMS

"Listen not to the critics/Who put their own dreams on the shelf", he warns in *How You Ever Gonna Know*, a typically aspirational song about following your star. "Heaven's not beyond the clouds/It's just beyond the fear", he sings in *Belleau Wood*, a dirge about a Christmas Day truce between First World War troops.

If the greetings-card sentiments tend to grate, Brooks still has an unusual flair for harnessing the old-fashioned virtues of country music to the bland commercial appeal of mainstream American rock. At its best, the formula produces the sprightly western swing of *Longneck Bottle*. But too often the result is mawkish country-rock hybrids in which the music lacks conviction and the mood is bathed in crocodile tears.

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
*Chemical Reaction*  
(Afrodisia Music AFRC001 £9.99)  
IT IS no accident that the Chemical Brothers have done more than any other act, bar the Prodigy, to introduce hardcore dance music to the rock mainstream. Although unmistakably of the moment,

the Chemicals' propulsive drum sound is one with which lovers of the great funk and rock acts of the past can readily identify.

Their influence in the dance world can be gauged by the way in which other artists have emulated their hard, choppy "big beat" style. And on *Chemical Reaction* a bunch of rare Chemical Brothers mixes dating back to 1993 of songs including Primal Scream's *Jailbird*, Leftfield's *Open Up* and Saint Etienne's *Like a Motorway* are seamlessly interspersed with cuts by British underground acts such as Depth Charge (*Shaolin Buddha Finger*), Aphrodite (*Aphromoods*) and Dirty Beamiks (*Don't Stop*).

The sound of these various artists is so compatible you would think it was the Chemicals at the helm the whole way through, although, ironically, the best drum track is by the duo Freakniks on their number *Uncivilized World*, a brutish funk shakedown of surpassing energy and urgency.

**SQUAREPUSHER**  
*Burning'n Tree*  
(Warp WARPCD 53 £14.49)  
A COMPILATION of 12 untitled instrumental tracks, *Burning'n Tree* is a handy introduction to the maverick genius of Tom Jenkinson, the 22-year-old bass player and programmer from Chelmsford otherwise known as Squarepusher.

Although his audience comprises devotees of drum and bass and other forms of modern electronica, Jenkinson's outrageously fast and fluent bass playing style is redolent of 1970s jazz fusionists. Jenkinson is also the only musician I have come across who will programme a drum machine to play a swing ride cymbal pattern and Elvin Jones-style snare and bass-drum breaks — as he does here on *Track 7* — before plastering a disco bass line and old-fashioned electric piano sound on top. It's a delicious, free-form, yet highly evolved concoction.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Frauds to have faith in

LIVE GIG  
**The Charlatans**  
Olympia, Dublin

Boy — an exhilarating start. Singer Tim Burgess either struts and swaggers around the stage, or else he stays put, his dreamy vocals delivered with one hand in his pocket as though he were waiting for the bus.

There is a real kick to the music. The Charlatans are very much a group effort, as opposed to being merely a frontman with four sidekicks. An assertive rhythm section, the wah-wah wail of Mark Collins's guitar and the tempestuous Wurliizer of new keyboard player Tony Rogers all combined to strike up a soulful blues-inflected rock groove redolent of the Rolling

Stones circa *Sympathy for the Devil* and, as has been noted once or twice, the Stone Roses.

But if it's true that the Charlatans initially rode in the slipstream of their Northern brethren's success when they first appeared in 1990, they have stayed true to their vision and resisted the temptation to be blown off course by the fickle winds of fashion. There are signs of a slight stylistic shift: a gloriously inept one note harmonica break is pure Bob Dylan and there are flashes of Led Zepelin in some of the guitar riffs. But mostly the Charlatans stick to what they know best.

The blustering organ and shimmering guitars of *Weirdo*, the full-throttle boogie of *Just When You're Thinkin' Things Over* and, during the encores, a floor-shaking version of *How High* are all evidence of a band in complete command of its art.

The Christmas lights on stage suggested a band in an upbeat, celebratory mood. Who can blame them? On this form they have got a lot to smile about.

NICK KELLY

### TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (3) *Let's Talk About Love* — Celine Dion (Epic)
- (1) *Spiceworld* — Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (2) *Urban Hymns* — Verve (Hut)
- (4) *Greatest Hits* — Elton (EMI)
- (5) *Like You Do* — Lightning Seeds (Epic)
- (6) *Paint the Sky with Stars* — Enya (WEA)
- (7) *White on Blonde* — Texas (Mercury)
- (10) *Backstreet's Back* — Backstreet Boys (Jive)
- (8) *Left of the Middle* — Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)
- (9) *Lennon Legend* — John Lennon (Parlophone)

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# Think big, think Hollywood, then add a dash of British expertise

Michael Kuhn, the man behind *Bean* and *Four Weddings*, now wants to take on the world. Interview by Raymond Snoddy

Michael Kuhn is eagerly looking forward to the glitzy London premiere at the Odeon Leicester Square on Tuesday of PolyGram's latest movie, *The Borrowers*. He has no idea whether it will make anything like as much money as PolyGram's biggest hit, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, or pack them in as unexpectedly in America as Rowan Atkinson's *Bean* is now doing. But it is an important departure for the company all the same.

"It's our first real special-effects movie — and all made here — and I think it's come out just great and we are very hopeful for it. We are going to give it a big push in America. It's like a major Disney launch," says the 49-year-old Cambridge-educated lawyer, who now spends most of his life in Hollywood mixing it with the top studio bosses.

*The Borrowers*, a Working Title Films production — like *Four Weddings* and *Bean* — is an adventure story for children and adults that charts the trials and tribulations of a family of 4in people who live under the floorboards of a "lifesteal" house and "borrow" what they need to survive.

For PolyGram the happenings off-screen on *The Borrowers* are almost as important as the quality of the special effects. The \$30 million movie is being backed by full-scale Hollywood marketing parties, worldwide distribution and lavish castles featuring the outsized props from the film.

No opportunity is being missed to line up commercial tie-ins with all the domestic products borrowed or used. When the little borrowers are trapped in the family refrigerator, the attention to detail includes the inclusion of Dreyer's American ice-cream. "You have to think of these things way, way in advance but this is what you have to do if you want to be competitive in America," says Kuhn, executive vice-president of PolyGram and president of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment.

His target is the \$40 billion annual world cinema market: making small cultural films is not the way to reach it and he regards the agonising by critics over what is or is not a British film as "completely ridiculous and stupid". As Kuhn sees it, the issue is: "How can we repatriate to the UK as much production as possible and how can we make Europe have at least one or two studios that are able to compete with Hollywood?"

The battle, he believes, is not just about winning Oscars but the power that the content conveys. Movies are one of the determinant factors behind who controls cable and satellite television — and the world of 200-channel digital television already launched in America and due to begin in the UK in late spring.

The PolyGram chief has been trying to persuade the European Commission to create a 100 to 200 million ecu film-guarantee fund, which he believes could generate a billion euros of European production money.

With his colleague Stewart Till, Kuhn has also been trying to persuade the British Government to prod the City into creating a currency-hedge fund to even out the dollar-pound exchange rates for Hollywood film-makers.

"If the pound goes up to \$1.70, producers are going to go off to Marrakesh. If it goes down to \$1.40 it's great to film in England, and Pinewood is bursting at the seams," says Kuhn.

Ten years ago the prospect of PolyGram and Kuhn being in a position to influence the politics and economics of the European film industry, topping the US film charts and bringing in revenues of \$1 billion a year would have seemed as likely as a 4in family living under the floorboards.

It has been a ten-year process of slowly building PolyGram Filmed Entertainment and making sure that the inevitable "turkeys" didn't lose too much: the organisation has painful corporate memories of PolyGram's disastrous foray into movies in the 1970s.

For Kuhn, the key was reading *My Indecision is Final*, a requiem to a former high-flying British film company, Goldcrest, by Terry Ito and Jake Eberts. There Kuhn found what he considered to be the blueprint for setting up a Hollywood studio without the real estate, by doing things differently from Goldcrest in every respect.

Kuhn decided it was essential both to have serious capital to compete in the Hollywood league — \$1 billion to \$2 billion over time — and to possess your own distribution system; otherwise, even when you have a hit, most of the profit leaks out to middlemen.

"It was also implied in the book that there are two businesses in film, there are cultural films and there are Hollywood films, and the business is really Hollywood films. If you don't make that



PolyGram's Michael Kuhn: making small, quaintly British cultural films will not conquer the world markets

distinction you get yourself in real trouble," says Kuhn.

From the business point of view, PolyGram's competitive advantage turned out to be its ability to adapt its international record-distribution network to distribute films.

It has still been a hard struggle over ten years with, even now, no absolute certainty of success.

For his first project, Kuhn asked some people he knew in Los Angeles to make, for \$1 million, a film that featured a car chase, an explosion and a fight. Both the American and international rights of the resulting movie, *Private Investigation*, were sold at a profit and "we took our money and ran", he says.

It was a far cry from more recent PolyGram productions such as *Fargo*, *The Usual Suspects*, *Dead Man Walking* and *Trainspotting*. But there has been a catalogue of flops as well. For five years Working Title produced nothing that worked — even though they were often producing three or four films a year. Kuhn grimaces at the memory of one of them, *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl*.

"Much of my job is to structure the company to allow people to fail. I never thought of dumping them, because I believed in them. But obviously all the time you have to judge it and say when enough enough," he says.

Even now, after ten years, the company has not yet broken into profit, although Kuhn hopes this may be only one or two years away. He plans to gear up production, from the current 12 to 14 films a year, to 16 a year — of which around eight will be for worldwide release. Buying a back catalogue of films would also help the push towards profit, although so far PolyGram has been outbid whenever a deal has come up.

Profits may not yet have arrived at PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, despite an investment of around \$900 million — not counting off-balance-sheet financing — but Kuhn believes that if you add the value of its growing film library, the return on investment is already 20 per cent, and that is before you add on anything for the digital revolution.

And as one of the legion of "suits" who now run virtually all the Hollywood studios — albeit a suit with a sense of irony and a touch of sardonic humour —

Kuhn will happily set out a mathematical formula for success in the movie business. Happiness among the bean-counters of the movie business is an average "rental to native ration" — the amount received from theatrical exploitation of a movie compared with the cost of making it — of 130 per cent.

PolyGram started off at 50 per cent and reached 90 per cent last year. Kuhn thinks he will hit the Hollywood average of 130 per cent within two years.

He even likes the look of two new movies now in production: *Elizabeth*, about Elizabeth I, from Working Title, and a Stephen Frears western now being shot in Santa Fe.

Looking back, Kuhn says he is amazed how PolyGram has become a real force in the business: it now earns more than \$1 billion a year in revenues, with growth rates of 20 per cent, and has its own distribution in 13 countries, accounting for 70-80 per cent of all film revenues.

"In the next two years we will get some catalogue, then we will have achieved what no one has achieved since the war which is to build a new studio — and make some profits," says Kuhn before dissolving into laughter.

## Santa's TV surprise for Falklands

Meg Carter explains how UK TV is reaching out

Christmas usually comes in mid-January for civilians and Forces based in the Falklands. The islands' television service screens videos, flown from London to Port Stanley via Ascension Island, up to two weeks after programmes are broadcast in the UK.

All this will change on Monday, when live broadcasts start. For the first time, islanders will be able to watch *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* on the day they go out in the UK. They will also get live news from the BBC and ITN, and selected live Premier League football coverage from Sky, as well as the chance to participate in a local news programme, *Scene Here*.

The news service is run by the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS), which last year had its £60 million contract to supply TV to British Forces stationed around the world renewed for five more years by the Defence Ministry. Islanders and the military subsequently agreed extra funding to enhance the Falklands' tape-based TV service and to make use of a more powerful Intelsat satellite.

"It's a quantum leap forward," says Dusty Miller, station manager for BFBS TV and radio in the Falklands. "Previously, we've had to edit out anything particularly time-sensitive, such as sport and news. Until now, the Falklands have been a logistical nightmare. They are the size of Wales, with the population of Swansea and the terrain of Dartmoor. Five thousand people are split between the Mount Pleasant military base and the capital, Stanley. A further 500 are scattered elsewhere."

Peter McDonagh, the BFBS's director, says that going live was a "high welfare priority" and it was also about broadcasting choice. Islanders have their own newspaper, *The Penguin News*, but the only alternative to BFBS's tape-based TV service is KTV, a small satellite TV service recently launched by a local entrepreneur. KTV broadcasts American programmes from Chile to viewers in Port Stanley.

Radio has also been limited. BFBS provides two Forces stations to army bases around the world — BFBS 1, a Radio 1-style format, and BFBS 2, a Radio 2-Radio 4 hybrid. Until now, Falklanders have had only one service — a blend of BFBS 2, Radio 5 Live and BBC World Service, broadcast on FM and medium wave for most of each day. The volunteer-run Falklands Islands Broadcasting Service provides local programming on FM every evening.

The new 24-hour satellite link with the UK provides six new audio channels. From Monday, islanders will be able to hear BFBS 2 on medium wave around the clock, and BFBS 1 on FM. It will also enable BFBS to increase its daily TV output from 11 to 18 hours.

Mr Miller says: "The live TV schedule will be put together in the UK, taking the most popular programmes from all terrestrial channels, as well as news and sport. We have a camera and cameraman here and we hope to submit more material to *Scene Here*."

"The next step must be the Internet. Cable & Wireless, which supplies the Falklands with telephone and telecommunications, is looking into it."

## Reaction to movie could spawn a string of Beans

MR BEAN is now causing chaos in Hollywood. The global success of *Bean*, the movie — box-office takings \$200 million — means huge pressure for a follow-up. But will Rowan Atkinson oblige with *Bean 2*? Peter Bennett-Jones, joint producer with Tim Bevan, thinks not.

"Hollywood can't understand why we don't want to capitalise on our success," he says. But Atkinson is taking a year off. "He'll be polishing his (vast) collection of cars," says Bennett-Jones, whose Tiger Aspect company brought Mr Bean to British television screens in 1990 and developed the movie itself.

But the *Bean* team, including writers Richard Curtis and Robin Driscoll, does want to develop him further — as a cartoon character. "Really, he's a children's character: they love his selfishness and ability to create chaos. Creatively, it would be very liberating. In a cartoon we can take him to all sorts of new places, for example, space," says Bennett-Jones.

Mr Bean to fix the Mir space station? It's an awful thought.



Mr Bean: could he soon be causing chaos in space?

AT THE Royal Television Society dinner this week, the speaker, Mark Thompson, Controller of BBC2, was asked a mischievous question by Tom Gutteridge, Annika Rice's producer. "If you were allowed to, where would you move *Newsnight*?" Chairman Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, immediately jumped up to rule that Thompson didn't have to reply. But senior broadcasters rushed to fill me in afterwards. Thompson would love to move *Newsnight* from 10.30pm to 11pm, they said, freeing him to schedule a wider range of adult entertainment. *Newsnight* could then expand into a 60-minute news/late review. After all, *Panorama* has been moved to 10pm. But from Hall's reaction, it looks off-limits.

WHAT is happening to *The Independent*? It's surely too new a paper to be sinking into entropy? This week Miles Kington's Monday column was reprinted again on Tuesday. The regular, fluent Monday column from its media editor, Rob Brown, seemed oddly stale. It was recycled from the week before. Last Saturday's *Weasel* diary in *The Independent*'s magazine carried an elaborate apology: the entry for



November 15 was a reprint of the previous week's. Perhaps the Editor, Andrew Marr, belongs to the (late) John Junor school of journalism? When Editor of the *Sunday Express*, he said: "I really think people would be happiest with the same newspaper every week." He practised what he preached too — between 1954 and 1986 the paper served up the same unvarying recipe: starlets jetting off to the sun, the Crossbencher column, a Giles cartoon. But *Independent* staffers say the once-great paper, with costs cut to the bone, simply doesn't have enough staff to check that the pages are correct. Sad.

WHEN John Brown, self-made publisher of *Viz*, held a 10-year birthday party last week, Ed Bye, husband of Ruby Wax, won the raffle: two tickets to New York. A voice piped up that this was unfair. "He gets free trips anyway," John Brown drew

again, and a needier media foot soldier got the seats.

RESEARCH from Channel 4 has revealed the profile of the viewers to whom chief executive Michael Jackson must appeal. I reprint it, with apologies to Rudyard Kipling.

If you eat mainly vegetarian food

And think it's worth paying more for organic fruit and veg

If you dream of holidays off the beaten track

Yet humbly queue with crowds before the cinema doors

If you read labels on food to check for additives

But cannot resist buying those escapist magazines

If you can spend the unforfeiting minute

With 60 seconds' worth of shopping on the Net

Yours are the eyeballs Channel 4 has conquered

And — which is more — you're the *Modern Media Person*.

### The only way is up

DAWN AIREY, Channel 5's gutsy programme director, most prominent woman in mainstream television, has wrung a crucial commitment to her career advancement from shareholders Lord Hollick and Greg Dyke.

In return for spurning an offer from Elisabeth Murdoch, to mastermind a big expansion of general entertainment satellite service Sky 1, they are sending her to Harvard Business School to burnish her management skills. This is the same course which Dyke took before transforming himself from Roland Rat's Dad to managing director of London Weekend Television, multimillionaire, and Pearson's TV deal-maker, and which John Birt was about to go on when the BBC recruited him to be its eventual Director-General (he compensates with one-to-one tutorials with top management gurus). Channel 4's Michael Jackson took a similar course. "I'm sure Dawn will be a chief executive somewhere," says David Elstein, Channel 5's silky-tongued chief executive.

THE BBC's mad internal market has been rightly ridiculed for charging programme-makers £20 a time for a peek at *Who's Who* or for borrowing a CD, forcing humble researchers into time-wasting journeys to free libraries.

Now Will Wyatt, pragmatic chief executive of BBC Broadcast, has acted. His policy paper suggests that each BBC department pays an annual joining fee to the library/archive systems, slashing requests for research to about £3 or so.

Common sense takes so long to triumph at the BBC.



Harvard-bound: Dawn Airey

ducer Jeremy Thomas, has apparently agreed a compromise which was put forward by Joan Bakewell, deputy chairwoman.

He will take stewardship of the project — it's too late to stop. But he will look for a commercial partner used to running cinemas, say Richard Branson's Virgin, to take it over and share the risk. Islanders say that unless this is fixed, it could be the final folly that destroys the BFI.



# Stressed for success

Downsizing and backstabbing make media and marketing the most highly stressed professions. Virginia Matthews reports

**M**igraines, ulcers, heart disease and irritable bowel syndrome are among the chronic disorders that lie in wait for the stressed-out brand manager or advertising executive, the annual Marketing Society Conference heard last week.

In a culture where everyday distrust, backstabbing and often 14-hour days are given the added piquancy of impossible deadlines, slashed budgets and omnipotent clients, it is little wonder that as many as a third of people working in media, marketing, and advertising are, according to a 2,500 sample survey by the industrial psychologist Dr David Lewis, considering quitting their jobs.

Dr Lewis told an audience of marketing luminaries that the marketing and media professions were full of "inelligent, creative and ambitious" people whose high stress levels were directly related to the often minimal levels of control they had over their working lives.

Uncertainty about their jobs and intense competition with workmates, coupled with hostile management practices and bewildering layers of new technology had, he said, "significantly challenged" the view that marketing and media were full of grossly overpaid layabouts.

Many marketing professionals, he told the conference, the Marketing Society's 31st, worked every evening and throughout the weekend to fulfil their job's basic requirements.

Mr Lewis's survey, which quizzed employees in the public sector, as well as advertising, media and marketing personnel, found that time pressures — an important contributor to stress — are intensifying throughout the private and public sectors. As many as 83 per cent of marketing professionals believed that managers allowed them insufficient time to complete work to a high standard. The trend towards downsizing had discouraged staff from making their complaints known.



Under pressure: many ills among high-flyers are blamed on stress and fear in an ever-competitive workplace

The other industries where time pressures had become chronic were teaching, the health service and air-traffic control.

Mr Lewis said that the marketing industry's record for sacking directors when things got tough was second only to the revolving-door syndrome suffered by football managers: a ruthlessness that contributed to high levels of "fear" throughout all echelons of the industry.

While few media people could compare the aggravation of getting out on time a TV programme, or a radio commercial, with the problems of teaching in an inner-city school — where his survey finds even higher levels of stress — Dr Lewis believed that the innate creativity of media types had its own problems.

"Although it is true that marketing and media attract a certain sort of person — chiefly one who needs a

regular adrenalin buzz — many of the people we talked to felt they were creatively compromised by what they did and wanted to prove themselves in a different field.

"Unfortunately, very few of the people who believe they should be producing a Booker Prize-winning, rather than writing clever slogans for dog-food or beans, actually have the talent to do so. This too can lead to great frustration."

Delegates to the conference were told that to minimise stress, they should value and maintain relationships with people they felt they could trust. While marketing and media are not renowned for their high levels of marital fidelity, it was important, said Dr Lewis, that people under pressure at work should have someone to confide in at night.

"Stress and depression can have a chronic effect on the libido," he said,

"and this can lead to all sorts of problems at home."

In the survey, almost two thirds of employers said they believed stress to be a significant factor in ill-health: while among employees, 98 per cent of the sample said the same.

Only a third of employees believed that their companies were aware of stress levels and were taking practical steps to help. Another third said that employers were aware of stress problems but did nothing to alleviate them, while the remainder said that their employers were oblivious to the problem.

One of Dr Lewis's practical solutions to stress was what he called the "hand-warming exercise," where an individual imagines his or her dominant hand getting warmer and warmer. The ensuing flow of blood throughout the body can lead to an immediate feeling of wellbeing, he told the conference.

# Public flogging for a lover of privacy

**I**t is the divorce story of the decade, according to the *Daily Mail* — and editors who suffered the lash from Earl Spencer after the death of his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales, are relishing his day-by-day discomfort at each new revelation about his seemingly callous treatment of his wife and lovers.

On the day of the Princess's death, Spencer savaged the British tabloids, declaring that editors and proprietors who had paid paparazzi had "blood on their hands". He twisted the knife at the funeral when he said that the Princess's "genuine goodness" threatened those at the "opposite end of the moral spectrum", a transparent attack on tabloid editors.

Aware that their readers shared Spencer's views, even perhaps aware that the accusation had some truth, editors did not rise to Spencer's attacks, even though many probably knew the details of his private life that are now being revealed. So *The Lord of Hell* magazine claimed the moral high ground. Sadly for Spencer, now portrayed in *The Sun* as "Lord Lovecheat" and "Lord of the Filings", the claim no longer holds.

Spencer has removed himself from the upper end of the moral spectrum without any contribution from the tabloids. The Spencer divorce saga has all the ingredients that make a story riveting — a millionaire lord of the realm, a spurned wife, a string of lovers (also apparently spurned) and a quarrel over how much a divorced wife is worth: a wife who was summoned to the bathroom and told she was being divorced while milord soaped himself in the bath. Simultaneously ashamed by our prurience but with an insatiable appetite for gossip, we long to know what happens next when aristocratic toffs fall out.

As the headlines suggest, it is not only tabloid editors who have had a field day. "Earl Spencer Cheated With 12 Women in 5 Months" (*The Sun*). "Earl admitted he was a cruel, vicious bully" (*The Daily Telegraph*). "Bully Spencer kept me from Diana's funeral" (*Daily Mail*). "Spencer: I can't afford divorce claim. I only earn £1 million a year" (a gift for *The Guardian*).

The accusations and counter-accusations in Cape Town were also a gift to editors campaigning against a law of privacy. As the *Daily Mail* was quick to point out, what right has a man who behaves in this fashion

to set himself up as a campaigner for a law of privacy? Spencer's attitude was "old-fashioned lordly arrogance masquerading as high principle", said Henry Porter.

The sisterhood has also rallied behind Lady Spencer. Angela Levin, a biographer of Spencer's father, suggested in the *Daily Mail* that Spencer was a product of nature and nurture. Both his father and grandfather had treated their wives in similar fashion. In *The Times*, Maureen Freely celebrated the rise of "matron" power.

At *The Mirror*, the Editor, Piers Morgan, was resisting any temptation to gloat, even though in 1995 when he edited the *News of the World* he was the subject of a successful complaint by Earl Spencer to the Press Complaints Commission about invasion of privacy. Morgan had published pictures of Lady Spencer at a private clinic and was publicly rebuked by Rupert Murdoch.

Spencer has been naive at best, foolish at worst, he believes. If he had settled out of court his serial adultery would have remained undiscovered. It was he who had made himself the nation's moral guardian. Now he had got his comeuppance.

Yet as *The Times* reported yesterday, Spencer and his wife have lodged a joint complaint to the European Court of Human Rights accusing the Government of failing to protect their privacy by failing to prevent publication of the 1995 pictures. They are using Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights — now being incorporated into British law — which protects rights to privacy for private and family lives, homes and correspondence.

Editors rightly fear that a privacy law is thus being introduced to Britain by the back door, although Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, indicated this week that the PCC could become the privacy tribunal if it set up a fund for victims of press intrusion and thereby sidelined the threat of judges assuming the task.

No such tribunal, however, would have saved Spencer his embarrassment this week. The cruel paradox for Spencer is that he apparently hoped a South African court would be less prodigal than a British court in deciding on Lady Spencer's divorce settlement. Yet he had initiated the case in Britain, most of the salacious detail in the affidavits would not have emerged for public consumption. That bit of privacy was already protected by British law.



Brian MacArthur

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Hocine's photograph of a mother collapsing as she discovers her eight children have been murdered brought Algeria's horror home to the world

# Icon of a hidden war

This is a picture of a mother on her knees supported by another mother. It is, in short, a Pietà: an image carrying a wealth of our own cultural baggage. The Madonna in Hell. One more massacre in Algeria, this time in Benthalha, a village a few kilometres from Algiers. The icon is timeless, not a news picture; but then news has little meaning in Algeria today.

Stripped of everything else, this photograph is about grief, grief so intense that we can see in our mind's eye the rows of corpses lined up in the early hours of the morning. Its use on the front pages of most French, Spanish, Italian and Lebanese dailies, plus the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times* helped to create an icon of the war.

It carries a weight of emotion — and some information: The woman below has just lost all eight of her children; the woman supporting her has just lost her parents. All murdered in Benthalha. The photographer, Hocine, is Agence France Presse's (AFP) only accredited photographer in Algeria. Why, he muses, was it this particular shot that caught the imagination of the media? Events the day after the

**Michel Guerrin tells the story behind the photograph that awoke the world to Algeria's horrific conflict**

massacre at Benthalha on September 22 illustrate the difficulties of being a photographer in a country where, according to a local press photographer, "a camera is considered more dangerous than a Kalashnikov."

Alerted to the massacre, a few photographers reached the site around 9am. "I was stopped by police in plain clothes four or five times. I couldn't get my camera out," says Hocine.

"The bodies of the victims had been laid out in a school. There was no way of getting in without running the gauntlet of the people who were outside."

To find out exactly how many had been massacred, a reporter from the newspaper *Al Watan* managed to get into the cemetery. "The official figure was 85 dead; we made it 252," he says.

Getting the news out has become even more difficult since the massacre at Rais on August 29. While there is no formal ban, getting a picture is purely a matter of luck: what time the photographer arrives there, the mood of the police, what sort of deal negotiated. "It's a game

of hide and seek," says one photographer, who uses a tiny spy camera to worm his way in. Even for him, he says, things have got "much tougher." Which is why Hocine goes for pictures that probe beyond the surface: "more about emotions than news."

Hocine's famous photograph was not, therefore, taken in the village but at Zmirli hospital on the outskirts of Algiers, where mothers had gathered in the hope of discovering survivors. They were not allowed inside the hospital, but searched through the lists of names pinned up at the entrance.

After discovering that there was no hope for any of her eight children, the woman in his photograph crumpled to the ground, almost fainting. Hocine leant over and snapped while the police were otherwise occupied. He removed the film and jumbled it with others in his bag. Moments later, the new film was stripped out of his camera by the police, but the one that mattered survived. At 3.22pm the same day, the film was being distributed worldwide via AFP.

Hocine is one of around 20 press

photographers who work for the Algerian dailies. Faced with the additional problem of visas and insurance, there are few foreign photographers on the scene.

The job of gathering the evidence of a country at war is left to a younger generation of Algerian photographers, "most of them well under 25 years old", according to one reporter. They have neither experience nor training, yet they have "a burning desire to break new ground."

A number of editors and photographers have noticed a change in the role of pictures in the Algerian daily press. "Photography is more and more important; words no longer want to speak," says a journalist on *Al Watan*. "When words have lost the power to convey the horror of this endless succession of unspeakable atrocities, photos take over and fill out the front page."

In fact, the photographs coming out of Algeria are extremely limited. Three Algerian photographers have therefore just set up a picture agency, News Press, and are distributing worldwide through Sipa

## BBC's World Service set to enter the television age

A BBC institution faces a new challenge, says Raymond Snoddy

The BBC World Service, which broadcasts in 45 languages to a regular audience of more than 143 million people, is seeking government approval to move into television.

There is no actual prohibition against television in the constitutional documents of the World Service, but in the past government permission has not been given to use Foreign Office money for such a purpose. Last year a possible television joint venture in Russia was rejected. "I imagine they refused because of the cost that may need a partner."

Work is also progressing on plans to improve short-wave quality by turning it into a digital signal.

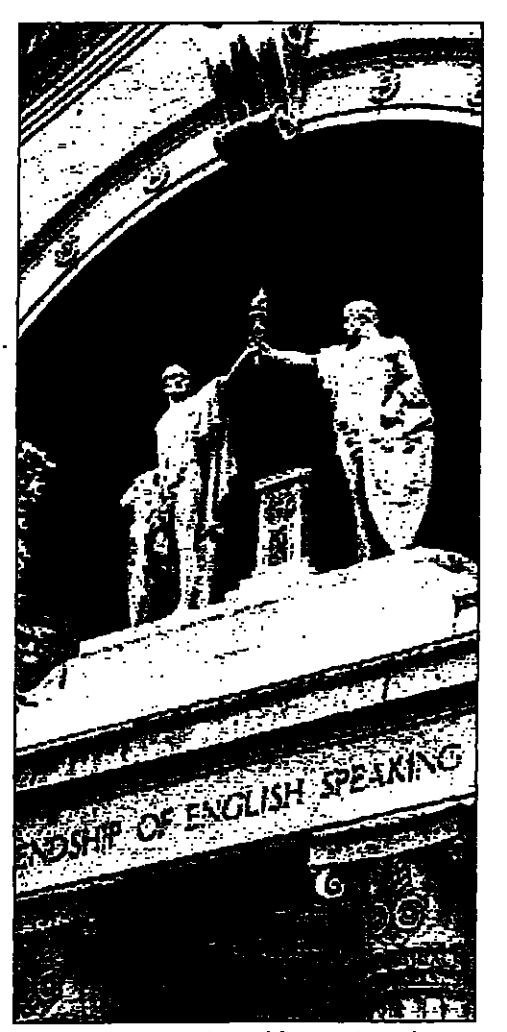
A new international group, Digital Radio Mondial, is being set up to create a single standard for short-wave digital. Wide-spread implementation of the service is probably a few years away because of the need to upgrade transmitters and produce radio receivers at mass-market prices.

The World Service and other international broadcasters are also negotiating with WorldSpace, an American-based company that plans to launch three digital radio satellites — the first next year. Although the satellites are already under construction, there is concern at the likely cost of the receivers and the fact that they need a "line of sight" with the satellites to be effective.

While technology develops, and with it the possibility of more new radio channels, the World Service



Sam Younger



The World Service: wide-ranging plans

move gradually into television is part of a much wider debate about the future role of the World Service and what channels should be used to reach its audiences in an increasingly multi-media environment.

The new Government appears more sympathetic to the World Service than recent Conservative governments, which have tended to chisel at its budget. But Mr Younger is very aware that persuading them to come up with more money will still be difficult.

A proposed £5 million cut was restored in last November's budget but it is clear there will be no additional money for the next two years. In the last financial year the Government granted to run the World Service totalled £174.6 million.

"What we are doing is getting into a longer-term discussion about the next five years from the 1999/2000 [financial year]. What we want them to do is to share our view of what we can do and be, and then hope that they will be sympathetic to putting in an extra bit of money which, in Treasury terms, is peanuts — 1 to 2 per cent in real terms," says Mr Younger.

Apart from a modest move into television, the World Service believes it has to look increasingly at a variety of ways to reach its audience. While short-wave broadcasts will remain the backbone of the service, in many parts of the world short-wave sound quality is increasingly unacceptable to audiences used to FM.

The World Service has responded by offering programmes for re-broadcast in FM and gaining access to local FM frequencies in individual countries.

It has been granted an FM frequency for its service in Jordan — which would probably have been unthinkable only a few years ago. The service has had its own frequencies in such cities as Berlin and Singapore for years but now has FM frequencies such as diverse places as Dakar, Kampala, Dohar and Qatar, and is about to add Nairobi and Mombasa to the list.

In areas of the world where editorial compatibility is possible, the World Service is going a step further and entering co-production deals. The latest one, to be signed early next month, is with the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

"There are not too many areas of

deemed rock solid within a giant multinational agency grouping — in this case the Lowe Group and McCann-Erickson, both subsidiaries of the giant InterpublicGroup (IPG).

Multinational agencies are traditionally built on such clients. They open offices around the world on the promise of business like GM's. There remains an overall trend towards global, or at least regional, centralisation of business into one agency or group.

But ever since Coca-Cola humiliated the IPG subsidiary McCann-Erickson in the early Nineties by putting business into the Creative Artists Agency, then run by Michael Ovitz, there has been a significant stream of clients such as Sony, Microsoft, Levi's, and now GM, that have bucked this trend.

It all goes to add to the feeling that after 25 years of relative inertia, when things were done as they always had been done, there is a growing air of anything goes. Giant clients such as Unilever are going outside their agency and appointing tiny start-ups with new silly names such as Mother, to the panic and consternation of the big boys. While Rainey Kelly will scarcely be able to believe its success, Phil Geier, chief executive of IPG, will be on the warpath. At last the advertising business has woken up.

Stefano Hatfield is Editor of Campaign.

## Nike joins trend for giving agencies the boot

**FIRST** Guinness, now Nike. The American sportswear giant has become the second high-profile advertiser in two weeks to dump its existing agency, despite paying fulsome tribute to the quality of its advertising and enjoying demonstrable success in the marketplace.

When Nike publicly praised TBWA Simons Palmer's recent Parklife commercial as "perhaps the finest football ad ever made", one might have known the writing was on the wall. Such public endorsements have become advertising's equivalent of the football chairman expressing every confidence in his manager.

You will have seen this advert, noticed years of hard-hitting Nike posters starring the likes of Eric Cantona, Ian Wright and Les Ferdinand, and know the "Just Do It" slogan, even though the company often just uses its logo to sign off its adverts. But you will also have seen last year's epic good-versus-evil commercial, in which a team captained by Eric Cantona saw off a team of devils.

This was made by Wieden & Kennedy, the agency that has for years been thought of as America's sexiest, largely on account of its work for Nike.

Since co-founder Dan Wieden coaxed Nike's Phil Knight out of his loathing for advertising and admen in 1982, client and agency have grown together. Wieden runs Nike's adverts worldwide.

In 1992, Wieden opened in Amsterdam, putting still further

pressure on the UK agency that was the only glitch in this global hold on advertising's joint-oldest account (along with Levi's). However, Nike chose to stay loyal to the agency then known as Simons Palmer Denton Clemmow and Johnson, ignoring its silly name because of its successful work.

However, when Simons Palmer etc merged with TBWA earlier this year, it gave Nike an excuse to look around. It is the kind of advertiser that had begun to believe its own press about how cool it is, and some at Nike felt they were just another client at the new TBWA Simons Palmer, where others include Nissan, The Sun, Goldfish and Sony.

So Nike staged a review. We will never discover how the UK agencies, WCRS and St Luke's feel about having taken part. It is not done in the agency business to criticise clients, no matter how badly they have behaved. You never know when they will be looking around again.



The result is the only positive development in this sorry tale. Wieden & Kennedy will carry out its decade-long threat to open in London.

While cynically acknowledging that it was unlikely to do so without guaranteed Nike business, it will be the most interesting and refreshing start-up to hit London in years.

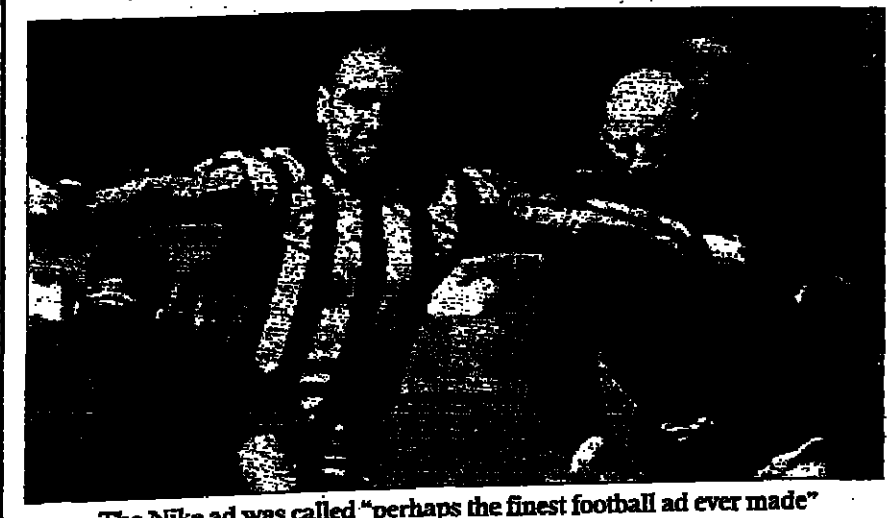
Wieden's other major American clients are Microsoft and Coca-Cola. Together with Nike they form a list any start-up would kill for, although it doesn't have them here — yet. While the agency is bound to be restricted by Nike as to what other clients it might handle initially, it is unlikely to be long before it becomes a major force, pitching for some of the best accounts around.

The chief foreseeable snag — ironically — is the very thing that

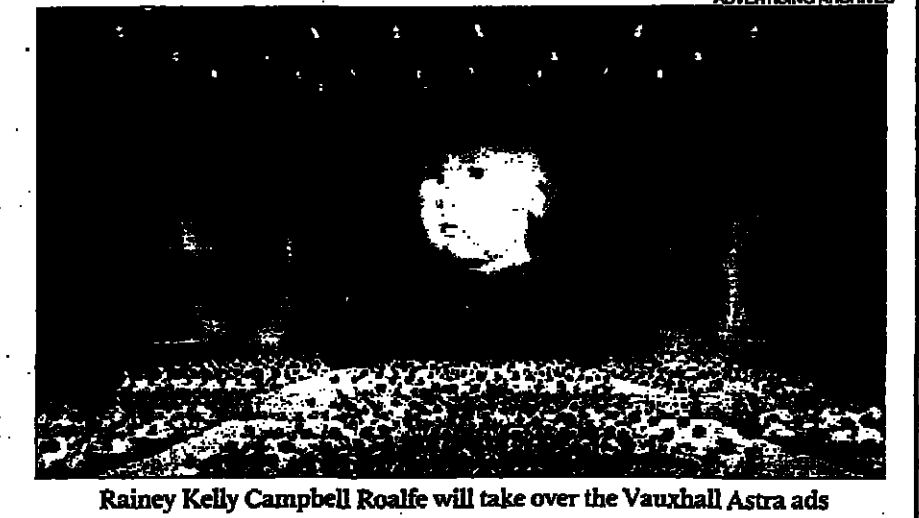
cast TBWA Simons Palmer its most prized account politics. In this case, it is the residue of the local UK marketing department to be being told by Coca-Cola in Atlanta, and Microsoft in Seattle, for example, what to do. However, in today's global marketing business, the local staff might huff and puff a while, but in the end they will be forced to toe the company line.

**TALKING** of politics, the waning influence of the national marketing department in the face of pressure from the centralised regional function became only too evident this week when General Motors Europe awarded the £30 million pan-European advertising launch of its new Vauxhall/Opel Astra to the small London agency, Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe, the UK's last wholly successful start-up.

It is difficult to comprehend the ripples this sent around the industry. General Motors is one of those clients that has long been



The Nike ad was called "perhaps the finest football ad ever made"



Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe will take over the Vauxhall Astra ads



# In politics, all that counts is good news

Attacking your rivals may be a waste of time. Martin Rosenbaum reports

Viewers are strongly swayed by positive reporting of a political party's activities, but are largely unaffected by negative coverage, according to a recent academic study. The findings challenge the common wisdom among political strategists, who believe that although voters tell pollsters they do not like negative campaigning, they are still powerfully influenced by it.

Videotapes of selected election news items were shown to 240 participants, who answered questions on their political views before and after watching the tapes. Those who watched positive coverage of Labour emerged with a significantly more favourable impression of the party. The Tories benefited similarly from positive news. But those who saw the negative reports of either party were not significantly affected.

The extracts were intended to illustrate the variety of election reporting. Items ranged from serious sepiet speeches and the latest economic statistics, to John Prescott chatting cheerfully on his battle-bus and Norma Major visiting a factory.

"The lesson for political parties is to concentrate on getting positive coverage and not on knocking your opponents," says David Sanders of Essex University, who co-ordinated the experiments.

Professor Sanders argues that positive messages stand



Swinging voters: Peter Snow analyses the election results on his Swingometer

Professor Sanders says that campaign managers of all parties who have been borrowing hard-hitting American electioneering techniques should take heed. "The British electorate is not Americanised and openness to new ideas, will characterise the successful candidate. Preference is for an MBA, or graduate, with significant international experience of the retail/distributor market. Fluency in French or another language would be an advantage. The company will reward outstanding initiative and success with financial benefits in excess of the package above, and will also lead to further personal development.

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# The future is a computer: in English

Everybody knows that predictions about the future, particularly those involving the pace of technological change, are usually wrong — often ludicrously so.

In 1939 *The New York Times* was certain that television would never pose a threat to radio because you would have to sit and watch the screen and "the average American family hasn't time for it".

Ten years later Thomas Watson, founder of IBM, thought there was a market for about five computers in the entire world. In the early Eighties, McKinsey, the consultants, thought that by 2000 there would probably be around 900,000 mobile telephones out there. By 1996 the forecast had already been proved wrong by a factor of more than 100.

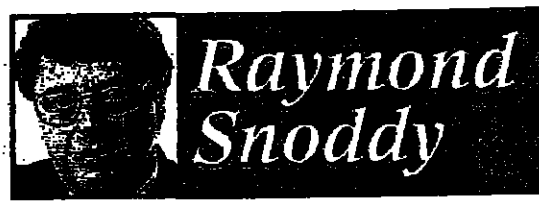
But the future is fascinating because it seems to be hurtling towards us at ever-greater speeds. A new book out this week, *The Death of Distance*, by Frances Cairncross of *The Economist*, warns us how fundamental the changes are likely to be in the next century because of the changes in communications — in particular the coming together of television, the telephone and the computer.

When your timeframe is a century, it is possible to argue almost anything with a reasonable degree of plausibility, knowing that you are unlikely to be comprehensively contradicted.

However Ms Cairncross suggests that a far-sighted person in 1897 could have predicted that great social change would result from the arrival of the automobile. In a similar way, the author believes that decades of technical progress in broadcasting, computers and telecommunications are coming together in a predictable way to drive forward dramatic social change.

In such a scenario most people on earth will have access to "switched", interactive, broadband networks which will deliver limitless quantities of images and information. Television will continue to change radically, with people likely to end up paying much more for such attractions as live events.

In the index of *The Death of Distance*, the word newspaper does not appear, except with the word "electronic" in front of it. But Ms Cairncross is not a totally mad futurologist. She concedes that electronic versions of newspapers may have to offer



Raymond Snoddy

many additional services before subscribers will be prepared to pay for them.

Travellers abroad may want the distance-destroying screen version of their hometown newspapers. "Other people may prefer to buy an inexpensive bundle of paper, as long as it can be delivered to the door," says Ms Cairncross.

But it is some of her "big" social predictions for the future that are most unsettling. In future, individuals will be able to order exactly what they want to view or read — and presumably pay for them individually, too. At the same time consumers will face a deluge of information, and companies will need to develop even better techniques to brand and push their products ahead of their competitors.

The information and entertainment producers of the Anglo-Saxon world should also receive an additional boost with the continuing spread of English as a second language around the world.

"It will be as important to learn English as to use software that is compatible with the near universal MS-DOS," Ms Cairncross predicts.

The creation of global markets for information and entertainment will create a new class of the global super-rich — many of them musicians, artists and entertainers.

Cities will become places for entertainment and culture rather than places to work, and the office will become a place for the social aspects of work such as celebrating, networking, lunching and gossiping.

Ms Cairncross also believes that as countries become more economically dependent, and people communicate more across cultures, understanding will be increased, tolerance will be fostered and world peace will ultimately be promoted.

It is probably the grandest claim that has ever been made for the communications industry.

Faced with such an onslaught of change, it is reassuring that, for now at least, Ms Cairncross's ideas are transmitted by old-fashioned paper and ink between cardboard covers.

Of course, as any futurologist knows, predicting what life is like in the middle of the next century is less demanding than trying to work out what will happen the year after next.

● *The Death of Distance: How The Communications Revolution Will Change Our Lives*, by Frances Cairncross (Orion Business Books, £18.99).

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# Extraordinary power of Home Secretary

# Impact of pension on amount of damages

**Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Stafford**  
Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Buxton  
[Judgment November 26]

The extraordinarily wide discretion conferred on the Secretary of State for the Home Department by section 29 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which empowered the Secretary to release a mandatory life sentence prisoner after expiry of the punitive term on the ground that, although not thought to present a risk, if released, of committing a violent or sexual offence, he might commit some other imprisonable offence or fail to comply with the requirements of his licence.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing the Home Secretary's appeal from Mr Justice Collins who had granted an application for judicial review by Dennis Stafford, a prisoner in the Parole Board's custody, of the Secretary's refusal to direct his release following recommendation by the Parole Board that he should do so.

In 1967 the applicant, with a co-defendant, had been convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Following his release in 1979 on life licence, and in breach of its terms, he went to South Africa where he remained until 1981, apparently without conviction or complaint of criminal conduct.

His licence was revoked and in 1989, on his return on a false passport, for use of which he was fined, he was detained in prison. In 1991, following a recommendation by the Parole Board he was again released on licence, but in 1994 after conviction of conspiracy to forge travellers' cheques and British passports for which he was sentenced to six years his licence was revoked and he was detained in prison.

In 1996 the Parole Board recommended his release, concluding that he presented a very low risk of serious re-offending. The Home Secretary refused to direct release on the grounds that he had failed to comply with requirements of earlier licences and, although not presenting a significant risk of committing further offences of violence, he might commit further serious offences.

He accordingly directed that the applicant be moved to an open prison with a formal review to

begin two years after his arrival there.

Mr David Pannick, QC and Miss Eleanor Gifford, QC, for the Secretary of State, Mr Tim Owen for the applicant.

**THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE**, tracing chronologically the development of the current law on the present question, referred to the statement made in November 1983 (*Hansard* [HC WA, cols 505-5]) by Mr Lord Bingham of Cornhill, then Secretary of State, in introducing the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which empowered the Secretary to release a mandatory life sentence prisoner after expiry of the punitive term on the ground that, although not thought to present a risk, if released, of committing a violent or sexual offence, he might commit some other imprisonable offence or fail to comply with the requirements of his licence.

He also referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Doody* (1994) 1 AC 531; the Home Secretary's parliamentary answer, prompted by that decision, of July 21, 1993 (*Hansard* [HC WA, cols 863-5]); *Wynne v United Kingdom* (1994) 19 EHRR 333; *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Smith* (unreported, March 16, 1995); *Hussain v United Kingdom* (1996) 22 EHRR 1; and to section 28 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997, which replaced section 29 of the 1991 Act and gave effect to the decision, confirming the position of mandatory prisoners detained during her Majesty's pleasure with that of discretionary life sentence prisoners and detainees.

That was to be understood in the context of the violent or sexual offence for which the prisoner had been sentenced. The section provided that in the case of each of the tests for release following completion of the punitive term was to be that confinement was no longer necessary for the protection of the public.

Having referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Venables and Thompson* (1997) 3 WLR 29 and *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Piers* (1997) 3 WLR 492, the Lord Chief Justice said that, as judges in the various cases and treated, as the Home Secretary plainly accepted, in relation to discretionary life sentence prisoners, detainees and those detained during her Majesty's pleasure, danger to the public was the only ground on which release could be refused.

He had also publicly directed the board that before recommending release it would consider whether further imprisonment would be justified on the basis of the public interest and whether the prisoner was likely to comply with the conditions of his life licence and the requirements of supervision.

There was no ambiguity in those statements, nor was it suggested that they had ever been modified or withdrawn. Despite an opportunity to do so in the 1997 Act, Parliament had done nothing to circumscribe or control the exercise of the Secretary of State's discretion.

He had announced what his policy was and the decision now challenged was not a departure from it. His direction to the board in March 1995 and his par-

liamentary answer of July 27, 1993 were couched in broad terms.

His Lordship did not accept that the word "risk" there used was properly to be understood as limited to the risk of violent or sexual offending. The Home Secretary had not said so.

It was not for the courts to circumscribe the effect of his general references to "a further imprisonable offence", "re-offending" and "further offences".

The system of release on life licence could reasonably be thought to be brought into disrepute if those so released committed serious offences of dishonesty or fraud the conditions on which they had been released.

It was irrelevant whether members of the court, as individuals, agreed or disagreed with that view. As judges, their only concern was with the lawfulness of the Home Secretary's conduct.

The court had to bear in mind that Parliament had seen fit to confer on him an extraordinarily wide discretion which he had not narrowed in the way suggested. Although allowing the appeal and dismissing the application for judicial review, the facts of the case caused his Lordship considerable concern.

The term the applicant now faced had not been imposed by way of punishment, because he had already served the punitive term which his serious previous offences had been thought to merit. The term had not been imposed because he was thought to present a danger to the public.

It was not submitted that it bore any relation to the gravity of any future imprisonable offence which he might commit or that it was needed to ensure future compliance with the terms of his life licence.

The imposition of what was in effect a substantial term of imprisonment by the exercise of executive discretion, without trial, lay uneasily with ordinary concepts of the rule of law.

His Lordship hoped the Home Secretary might, even now, think it right to give further consideration to the case.

Lord Justice Morritt delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Buxton delivered a judgment concurring in the result.

**Solicitors:** Treasury Solicitor; Michael Purdon, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**Longden v British Coal Corporation**  
Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde  
[Speeches November 27]

Where an employee received an incapacity pension from a contributory scheme that provided for either an incapacity pension or a retirement pension, the periodical payments received were not deductible from that part of an award of damages for personal injuries representing loss of retirement pension, but a lump sum also received should be apportioned and that part deducted that was attributable to the period after normal retirement age.

The House of Lords allowed in part an appeal by the British Coal Corporation from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Ward) (The Times April 14, 1995; [1995] 1 All ER 957), which had dismissed its appeal from Mr Justice Douglas Brown.

Mr Simon Hawkesworth, QC and Mrs Margaret Bickford-Smith for BCC; Mr Ian McLaren, QC and Mr Richard Burn for the plaintiff.

**LORD HOPE** said that the plaintiff had been employed as a deputy at BCC's West Thorpe Colliery, North Derbyshire. He

had been injured in an accident there on April 17, 1985 and been unable to continue in his employment. He had applied to the trustees of the staff superannuation scheme and on August 22, 1985 been awarded an incapacity pension.

He had been 57 when he had retired, the normal age being 60. Contributors to the scheme were entitled to either a retirement pension or an incapacity pension, but not both.

The payments that he had received had consisted of an annual pension and a lump sum. In his claim for damages, he had included a claim for loss of retirement pension, consisting of the lump sum to which he would have been entitled on retirement at the normal retirement age together with the difference between the annual retirement pension that he would have received after that date and the annual incapacity pension that he was receiving and would continue to receive.

BCC maintained that the award for pension loss ought to take account of the lump sum that the plaintiff had received together with the total of all the annual payments that he had received and would continue to receive or be entitled to receive under his incapacity pension until he reached the normal retirement age.

The judge had awarded a sum

for pension loss without deduction and the Court of Appeal, subject to correcting an error in calculation, had dismissed BCC's appeal.

The effect of *Purdy v Clover* ([1970] AC 1) and *Smoker v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority*, [1994] 2 AC 513 was that incapacity and disability pensions fell outside the general rule that prima facie all receipts due to an accident had to be set against losses claimed to have arisen because of the accident.

It was impossible to reconcile with the decision in those cases BCC's argument that at the end of the whole exercise one had to stand back and assess the plaintiff's net loss and in doing so make the deduction for which they contended.

In order to compare like with like, however, the lump sum that the plaintiff had received should be apportioned and he should be required to bring into account that part that represented the commutation of a part of the annual payments that he would otherwise have received as income during the period to which his claim for loss of retirement pension related. BCC's appeal should be allowed to that extent.

**LORD Goff**, Lord Steyn, Lord Slynn and Lord Clyde agreed.

**Solicitors:** Nabarro Nathanson, Sheffield; Hopkin & Sons, Mansfield.

# School need not supervise leaving for home

**Wilson v Governors of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School, Carlton**  
Before Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Mantell  
[Judgment November 5]

On the facts it was not necessary for a primary school to employ a supervisor at the end of the school day to ensure pupils' safety in the school yard on their way out of school.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the governors of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School, Carlton, Nottinghamshire, against liability for negligence and damages of £4,770 for personal injury awarded to Daniel Wilson, a minor suing by his mother and next friend Beverly Wilson, by Judge K. Martin, QC in Nottingham County Court on July 17, 1996.

Miss Bryony Clark for the school; Mr Philip Turton for the pupil.

**LORD JUSTICE MANTELL** said Daniel, then aged nine, had been injured on his way to the school gate at the end of the school day. He had been confronted by another boy, Adam, waving his

coat like a lasso. The coat had struck Daniel in the eye.

Daniel's claim boiled down to an allegation that the school was in breach of its duty of care in failing to ensure that the passage from the school door to the gate was supervised and that had a supervisor been on duty Adam would not have behaved as he did.

The judge had directed himself in law that the school should take such care as a reasonable father would take of his family and had decided that that required adult supervision at the end of the school day.

It was argued for the school that the judge had set too high a standard of care and that the finding that the mere presence of an authorised adult would have inhibited Adam was unwarranted.

There was evidence that care assistants were on duty in the lunch hour but there was no particular history to show the necessity of such assistants at going-home time. From age six Daniel had been going home unaccompanied. No one suggested his mother was failing in her duty by not meeting him at the school.

The confrontation might just as well have taken place outside the

school gates. The appeal would be allowed.

**LORD JUSTICE HIRST** agreed. It was essential in Mr Turton's argument that a comparison should be drawn between the lunch break when the children were supervised and the time when the children went home where there was no supervision. That was not a proper comparison.

The headmaster's evidence was that of the 200 pupils in the school the dining hall held 90 and the meal was taken in shifts. There were 110 pupils in the playground throughout more than an hour.

The need for supervision over the lunch period was obvious and according to standard practice in schools.

The very short period in which the pupils ran or walked from the door to the exit gates was quite different even allowing for the fact that the departing pupils were likely to be high spirited.

There was no evidence that supervision at that period was standard practice as it surely would be if it were necessary.

**Solicitors:** Berryman & Co, Nottingham; Hunimans, Nottingham.

# Claiming privilege against self-incrimination

**Downie and Others v Coe and Others**  
Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Buxton  
[Judgment November 5]

The privilege against self-incrimination, whether as protection against answering a question in the witness box or an interrogatory or against disclosing a document on discovery, had to be claimed on oath by the person who sought to rely on it, even if support and substantiation for the claim might come from elsewhere.

Where, therefore, privilege was claimed on affidavit by a solicitor on his client's behalf the claim was not properly made.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing on different grounds an appeal by the first and second defendants, Alan Coe and David Benham, from Mr J.

Griffith-Williams, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who had required them to comply with an order for discovery of, inter alia, bank and building society statements in an action brought against them and the third defendant, Roy Bonewell, by the plaintiffs, Nicholas Downie, John Martin, Sandra Goldstone and Derek Kierstead. In respect of the defendants' alleged misappropriation of funds.

Mr Peter Herry for Mr Coe; Mr John Causser for Mr Benham; Mr Michael McFarland for the plaintiffs.

**THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE** said that in submitting that the privilege against self-incrimination had not been properly claimed the plaintiffs had relied on a series of authorities which included *Webb v Eas* (1880) 5 Exch D 1039; *Lamb v Munster* (1882) 10 QBD 110; and *National Association of Operative Plasterers v Smithies* (1906) AC 434.

In the experience of all three members of the present court it had always been the practice that if any witness sought to rely on the privilege, whether as a reason for not answering a question in the witness box or for not disclosing a document on discovery, the objection had to be taken by the claimant on his or her oath.

That was the established practice, was clearly shown by those authorities.

It was plain that the claimant did not have to give chapter and verse to show why disclosure, or answering a question or an interrogatory might incriminate him. As Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, pointed out in *R v Times Zinc Corporation v Westinghouse*

*Electric Corporation* (1978) AC 547, 574 to require him to do that might expose him to the very peril against which the privilege existed to protect him.

It was also plain that the circumstances of the case might themselves show that a *Boyce* (1861) 1 B & S 311, 329, it was not therefore incumbent on a party seeking to exercise the privilege himself to describe in detail the peril to which he might be exposed.

That rule did not however in any way dispense with the need for a claim to be made on oath by the claimant, even if support for the claim and its substantiation came from elsewhere.

In the present case it was clear beyond argument that the claim had not been properly made and as a technical matter the plaintiffs would be entitled to resist the

# Scots Law Report November 28 1997 Outer House

# No indemnity after settlement

**Elf Enterprise (Caledonia) Ltd v London Bridge Engineering Ltd and Others**  
Before Lord Caplan  
[Judgment September 2]

Where insurers had settled claims for damages against their insured in respect of deaths and personal injuries on the Piper Alpha platform in 1988, the insured had no right to be indemnified by third parties who had granted the insured contractual indemnities in respect of the same loss as that covered by the insurance policy. Such a claim required to be advanced by the insured by way of a right to contribution from the indemnifier.

Lord Caplan, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held absolving the defendants in six of seven actions for a total of £8,500,000, which had been heard as test cases, in respect of a total of 146 actions raised by Elf Enterprise (Caledonia) Ltd (formerly OPCA) seeking reimbursement of about £130,000,000 paid to the families of the men killed in the explosion and fire on the Piper Alpha off-shore platform in 1988, and to the survivors, from contractors who had been engaged by them in connection with the operation of the platform.

The actions were brought on indemnities obliging the defendants to make good to the pursuers any loss occurred to them through the death or injury of any of the defendants' employees. In the seventh action Lord Caplan granted decree for payment to the pursuers of £12,685,57.

Mr Colin Macaulay, QC, Mr Derek Batchelor and Mr Leo Hordford for the pursuers; Mr Alan Johnston, QC, Mr Heriot Currie, QC, Mr Richard Keen, QC, and Mr James Wolfe for the defendants.

**LORD CAPLAN**, having delivered his opinion on other matters with which this report is not concerned, continued at p.423 of the judgment:

On day 281 of the hearing, in the last day of their submissions, the defendants had advanced an argument that six of the seven actions were irrelevant because they should have been raised in the name of the pursuers' insurers against the defendants for contribution.

It had to be said that that came somewhat as a surprise seeing that

the case had proceeded for 381 days without a whisper about the question of contribution. That such a fundamental argument should only emerge at the last gasp of such a long hearing, prima facie did not seem in harmony with a legal system that prided itself on the availability of preliminary procedures for disposing of points that were purely points of law.

Nevertheless, his Lordship held, the parties having agreed on proof before answer rather than simply proof, neither had waived its right to argue points of law after evidence, distinguishing *Lade v Large Baking Co* (1863) 217.

The pursuers' insurers had settled the majority of the claims that were the subject of proceedings under the indemnities. If the pursuers recovered then, their underwriters would have rights of subrogation. There was an uninsured element, but in only one of the present seven cases, against Stena Offshore, had the pursuers required to make a settlement payment of £12,685,57 of their own resources.

A party could only recover under an indemnity in respect of loss incurred. The defendants' point was that the pursuers had already been indemnified by their insurers and could not be compensated twice.

Where in such a case there were two indemnifiers their liability was joint and several, and if either paid more than his share then he was entitled to relief from his co-obligants to the extent of their pro rata share (*Gloag Contract* (2nd edn) p206; *Moss v Penman* (1993 SC 300), for otherwise the latter would benefit from unjust enrichment.

Unlike a right of subrogation in an action arising out of a delict, such a right of relief resided in the co-obligant directly: see *Sleight v General Accident Assurance Corporation Ltd* (1892) 19 R 977; *Albion Insurance Co Ltd v Government Insurance Office* (1969) 121 CLR 342.

The question was whether there was any justification in confining the application of those principles to insurance alone. In *Edgell v Stena Offshore* (1994) 1 AC 130 Lord Woolf had expressed the view that the law of contribution applied to a statutory as opposed to a contract-

ual indemnity. What the pursuers expressly claimed were the subrogation rights of their insurers. They referred to *Drayton v TTBHs* (1880) 5 QBD 560 which concerned a tenant's obligation to repair the property, where the Court of Appeal had held the landlord's insurers were entitled to be put in the place of the assured.

Contribution among joint debtors liable in respect of the same loss did not seem to have been argued. The pursuers also argued that the question of contribution arose only in the context of insurance and not where collateral indemnities were included in contracts for the provision of services: compare *Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Association v Northern Assurance Co* (1883) 11 R 302.

They referred to *Parr's Bank Ltd v Albert Mines Syndicate* (1900) 5 Com Cas 116 but that was not on all fours with the present case: there the sureties were liable for a premeditated act, whereas the insurers had accepted liability only for a loss on the sureties defaulting.

Their obligations had been different but here both insurers and contractors were pledged to cover the same loss. Nor on the terms of the policy in *Parr's Bank* could the insurers have been obliged by the sureties to contribute towards any payment made by the latter. What mattered was whether the parties had undertaken the same risk to the same common creditor.

However different the genesis of the contracts, there could be no doubt that the pursuers' insurers and the contractors, if they had any obligations to OPCA, and the participants, had it under contracts of indemnity.

It was clear from the authorities that the contracts that gave rise to the joint debt did not need to be identical.

If a party enjoyed the benefit of two or more indemnities covering the same loss and he recovered his whole loss it was difficult to see on what principle he retained a right to enforce his indemnity against the non-paying indemnifier. His loss had been satisfied.

There was no principle that entitled him to enforce his loss from the indemnifier as there was in the case of a wrongdoer. Perhaps if the indemnities had been granted to cover only facts occasioned by the indemnifier's own negligence some nice ques-

tions would arise, but that was not the case here. No one suggested that the defendants had been negligent.

The question ought to be settled on the basis of principle rather than by reference to any rigid classification such as insurance and non-insurance. The law had rejected attempts to confine contribution to particular categories of insurance.

His Lordship's conclusion therefore was that the insurers of OPCA and the participants did not have any right of subrogation in respect of the indemnities granted by the defendants. They had no title or interest to sue. If the insurers wanted to recover their outlay that would have to be by way of a separate action based on contribution.

His Lordship sympathised with the pursuers' complaint that the question of contribution had been raised late. Clearly, however, the whole matter would require to be addressed in relation to expenses.

His Lordship's conclusions meant that because of the issue of contribution, he would grant decree absolving all of the defendants other than Stena Offshore. He would accordingly award the pursuers decree against the defendants for £12,685,57.

It rather concerned his Lordship that after a proof of inordinate length (over four years) six of the seven test actions had to be decided on a preliminary point of law. There might be considerations which had not as yet, or perhaps could not be brought to the court's attention.

Nevertheless, the defendants might want to deal with that matter when expenses were discussed. However, not all of the time had necessarily been wasted.

The amount that his Lordship had awarded in the Stena action did not properly reflect the value of that litigation. It was a leading case and only one of the cases that had to be resolved.

The total amount was over US \$9 million, excluding interest. Thus the decision in the Stena case could well be very important.

**Law agents:** Paul & Williams; Simpson & Marwick, WS.

# Correction

In *Bilton v Fastnet Highlands Ltd* (The Times November 20) the advocate for the pursuer was Mr Andrew Smith.

# AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

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## FOOTBALL

## Gross ready to bank on bonus at Tottenham

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

SWITZERLAND is renowned for its secret bank accounts and utter discretion in matters of finance. Not so Christian Gross, the country's most famous recent export, the newly appointed head coach of Tottenham Hotspur.

Gross, formerly of Grasshopper Zurich, has revealed that he will be paid a minimum of £450,000 a year as he tries to rescue Tottenham from the FA Carling Premiership mire.

Gross, 43, signed an 18-month contract at White Hart Lane eight days ago, shortly after Gerry Francis resigned. Although reluctant to share his innermost thoughts with the English media, he discussed his new deal with Tages-Anzeiger, the Swiss daily newspaper, this week.

"All told, I'll be earning more than SwFr 1 million (about £450,000) a season," he said. "After tax it will be a little less than SwFr 1 million, but I will receive bonuses on top of the basic salary." Presumably, he will be suitably rewarded if he guides Tottenham away from relegation.

Gross said that he would have declined the offer of Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, had Grasshopper not lost to FC Croatia Zagreb in the UEFA Cup and that he was aware he was not the first choice for the job. Sugar had preferred Ottmar Hitzfeld, the former Borussia Dortmund coach who is now general manager at the Bundesliga club.

"If we had beaten Zagreb and remained in Europe, the deal that brought me to Tottenham would not have come about," Gross said. "Ottmar was offered the chance before me, but he turned it down and put in a very good reference for me."

"I've had approaches from foreign clubs before — from Celtic, Borussia — Mönchengladbach and SV Hamburg — but, at the time, I didn't feel ready to join them. The moment Spurs came in for me, I felt this was where I wanted to go. Everything moved quickly from then on."

Ron Atkinson, the new Sheffield Wednesday manager, is looking abroad as he attempts to strengthen his squad. Atkinson was in Zagreb on Tuesday night, where he watched Igor Cvitanovic, the Croatia Zagreb striker, play in the 1-1 draw against Atlético Madrid in their UEFA Cup third round, first-leg match.

Cvitanovic, 26, has been the leading goalscorer in the Croatian league for the past three seasons. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, tried to sign him two years ago, but Cvitanovic could not obtain a work permit. If Atkinson pursues his interest, he faces competition from Borussia Dortmund, Real Sociedad, who have made an offer of £3 million, and Werder Bremen.

Atkinson may enjoy more fruitful negotiations with Coventry City for David Burrows, the defender. Burrows, who joined Coventry, then under Atkinson, from Everton, could move to Hillsborough in exchange for Mark Pembridge, the Wales and Wednesday midfielder, plus a small cash adjustment in Coventry's favour.

Wimbledon's proposed move to Dublin has again been rejected by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). Bernard O'Byrne, the FAI chief executive, said yesterday: "We have received a fax from Sain Hammam [the Wimbledon managing director] in the past six months, which requested a meeting and we politely replied that there was no agenda to talk about."

"We have the backing of every football authority and have taken legal advice at the highest level. The Wimbledon people can go to the European Commission or whoever they like. Very simply, we will not allow this to happen."

David Currie, a midfielder, has joined Aston Villa for a nominal fee from Vitesse, the Swedish side, after a brief trial at Villa Park. Villa will make further payments for the 17-year-old if he breaks into the first team.

## Fast forward Davies seeks more reruns

Nick Szczepanik meets a young player making a striking impact on the Premiership

When Kevin Davies turned Philippe Albert, strolled past Darren Peacock and knocked the ball nonchalantly beyond the advancing Shaka Hislop with the outside of his right foot after only five minutes of Southampton's match at St James' Park on Saturday, it could have been the goal of his career.

But for Davies, 20, in his first season in the FA Carling Premiership, it was not even his best of the month. That came against Everton in a televised game at Goodison Park — or so he recalled. "I haven't watched Match of the Day since I've played here," Davies said. "My brother and mother tape it but I've not seen the goal at Newcastle and only caught a glimpse of the one at Everton. It doesn't affect me."

It is to be hoped that the tapes are well looked after, for there are several memorable strikes among his ten goals for Southampton — not a bad return for a player who scored only seven for Chesterfield last season.

He made his Chesterfield debut at 16, after being rejected by Sheffield United, the club he supported, and had played more than 100 League games when Graeme Souness, then manager of Southampton, signed him in June. Souness departed ten days later, to be replaced by David Jones, but Davies saw a chance to start on an equal footing with established players.

Nevertheless, the early part of the season was uncomfortable



After initially suffering from homesickness, Davies is now happy and settled in the Southampton dressing-room

able for both the new men, even when Davies's first goal for Southampton, against Crystal Palace, brought Jones his first win as a Premiership manager. Davies, who comes from a closely knit family, admitted to suffering from an early bout of homesickness. "I was on the bench and going home to a hotel on my own after training, but I sat down with the manager and everything has worked out fine."

Davies has also settled into the team, Southampton's upturn in form coinciding with him claiming a regular spot. He may not watch himself on television, but he has begun to attract the attention of a wider public.

Davies, who has appeared as a substitute for the England under-21 team, has clear aims and was not surprised to find himself in the first team. "When I signed, I saw there was a chance to break into a

team with a small squad," he said. "I rise to a challenge. I love going out and facing Liverpool or Everton but I've only scored once in any match. I'm scoring goals, but I could score more."

Davies and Terry Cooper, the Southampton assistant manager under both Souness and Jones, use the same words to describe his effect on defenders, "a handful". "It's a big jump from the second division to the Premiership,

but he's taken it in his stride," Cooper said.

He will learn from colleagues such as David Hirst, signed from Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton's opponents at The Dell tomorrow. Among their supporters will be Davies's father and, while most eyes will be on Hirst's efforts to make his mark against his former employer, a supporter of their greatest rivals may be the one who does the damage.

## Hinckley knit together for Trophy quest

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

A SERIOUS question arose after two rival clubs had merged: what should the new club take as its nickname? With the Robins, of Hinckley Athletic, and the Eagles, of Hinckley Town, no more, a competition was held in a local newspaper — and the history tradition of the Leicestershire town is now celebrated by the Knitters of Hinckley United.

This afternoon, Hinckley's Knitters make a 230-mile trip for an overnight stop in Barrow before playing the UniBond League premier division leaders in an FA Trophy third qualifying-round tie. Having gone through three rounds of the FA Cup before

falling in the fourth qualifying round to Colwyn Bay, Hinckley are bidding to reach the first round proper of the Trophy and the arrival of the Vauxhall Conference clubs.

They have already seen off Stafford Rangers, after a replay, and Whitley Town, winners of the FA Carling Vase last season, the latter in an extraordinary match in which Hinckley had a player sent off, went 1-0 down and won 3-1.

Seven players in the Hinckley squad were recruited from Bedworth United by Dean Thomas, the joint-manager

(with John Hanna, the former Athletic manager), who enjoyed considerable success at Bedworth last season.

United play in a red-and-blue striped kit that is a judicious amalgam of Athletic red and Town blue and, and the committee contains seven members from each club. Kevin Downes, the chairman, and Stuart Millidge, the secretary, were both formerly with Town, a precondition laid down by the Dr Martens League for the new club to keep Town's place in its midland division.

The former Hinckley Athletic had

been founded a long time before Hinckley Town, but it was Town who had made the most recent progress in playing terms," Millidge said. "Town's problem was that their ground was out of the town centre, so the merger brought the new club to Middlefield Lane. Athletic's ground, where there are much better gates."

Athletic, who were in the Southern League in the 1950s and 1960s, had been playing in the Midland Alliance. The merger was adopted by 90 per cent of the shareholders. "The past is behind us, we're only thinking to the future now," Millidge said. Starting at Holker Street tomorrow.

## Cruyff to remain in Dutch hospital for tests

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHAN CRUYFF, Holland's greatest player, was admitted to an Amsterdam hospital yesterday complaining of chest pains. Doctors said that he was "in a satisfactory condition", but would be kept under observation for a week.

"He called an ambulance and was brought here," a spokesman for the University Hospital said. "He will be undergoing extensive tests."

Cruyff, 50, underwent bypass surgery in 1991 after suffering a heart attack while he was manager of Barcelona. He had recently been working as a football commentator on Dutch television.

Officials from Bayer Leverkusen are to protest to UEFA about the treatment of their supporters by Belgian police after the Champions' League match against SK Lierse in Ghent on Wednesday night.

Reiner Calmund, manager of the German club, claimed that he had witnessed supporters being doused with water and beaten with sticks by Belgian police. "They were hitting women and older people. People lying on the ground were beaten. It was the worst thing I've seen in football," Calmund said. Belgian police said that they had acted in self-defence.

Paul Trollope has decided to leave Derby County to become the second Wales international to join Fulham in as many days. The Nationwide League second division side will pay Derby £50,000 for the mid-field player, with £50,000 to follow if they secure promotion. Fulham also completed the signing yesterday of Steve McAnespie, the Bolton Wanderers defender, for £100,000.

Trollope, 25, will link up with his fellow Welshman, Alan Neilson, who moved from Southampton for £250,000 on Tuesday. The signings take Fulham's spending past £4.5 million since Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins were brought to the club by Mohamed Al Fayed.

Chris Brain-Williams, of Nottingham Forest, is to undergo a carpal tunnel operation next week and will be out of action until March.

The Bolivia striker, Jaime Moreno, returned to Middlesbrough yesterday on a three-month loan from the US Major League club, DC United.

## SNOOKER

## Newcomer Stevens shows maturity of a veteran

BY PHIL YATES

CONTINUING to substitute the anonymity of the Llanelli and District League for a national spotlight, Matthew Stevens reached the semi-finals of a second consecutive world-ranking tournament in Preston yesterday.

Stevens, a semi-finalist at the Grand Prix last month, eased through to the corresponding stage of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship with the assurance of a veteran as he scored a 9-1 victory over Martin Dzwialowski, whose giant-killing march was ended.

"I've had to miss two league

matches and my team lost 7-0 last night," Stevens, 20, said with youthful enthusiasm, untainted by any sense of low-key local engagements being a chore. If he continues to play with such panache, the Terry Griffiths Matchroom Club will surely be forced to look for a new star player.

Stevens constructed a 143 total clearance to earn the pre-emptive highest-break prize of £1,500 during a 9-8 win over Tony Drago, the No 11 seed, in the last 32 before defeating Mark Williams, the world

No 4, 9-1 in the next round.

Those results, coupled with his breakthrough at the Grand Prix, suggest that the former United Kingdom junior champion possesses the credentials to surprise Alan McManus or Stephen Hendry, the title-holder, over the best-of-17 frames today.

"Even when things weren't going too well I never lost any of my self-belief," Stevens, who despite his tender years has an abundance of competitive experience on which to call, said.

His father, Morrell, estimates that he drove 250,000 miles while Stevens Jr served his snooker apprenticeship on the pro-am and junior circuit. With his son now standing two wins away from a £75,000 first prize and already guaranteed £19,750, those chauffeur duties are beginning to look a solid investment.

Stevens has also received guidance from the owner of the club that he represents. Although he plays more aggressively and at a considerably quicker clip than Griffiths, Stevens has similar qualities when it comes to dedication and commitment.

Resuming yesterday with the luxury of a 7-1 lead, Stevens completed victory only 29 minutes into the concluding session as Dzwialowski surrendered meekly.

He won the ninth frame with a 56 break, compiled despite being handicapped by a number of awkwardly positioned balls, and the tenth with a late run of 41.

Gerard Greene, the 9-2 conqueror of Steve Davis in the second round, again underlined his lack of respect for reputation by establishing a 4-0 advantage over Ronnie O'Sullivan, the 1993 UK champion, before finishing the afternoon at 4-4.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Nicol goes the way of Jansher

**■ SQUASH:** Peter Nicol, of Scotland, was beaten by Jonathan Power, of Canada, in the final of the Qatar International tournament in Doha yesterday. Power, the fourth seed, won 17-16, 15-13, 14-17, 9-15, 15-8 as he recorded his sixth PSA Tour win in a little more than a year. The victory came after Power's win over Jansher Khan, the world No 1, in the semi-finals, a win he described as the best of his career.

## Bears reborn

**■ RUGBY LEAGUE:** The reborn Oldham club will play at Boundary Park, the home of Oldham Athletic Football Club, next season under a 12-month rental agreement, revert to red-and-white hooped jerseys and reintroduce their "Roughyeds" nickname after the demise of Oldham Bears.

## Best in demand

**■ RUGBY UNION:** Newport have emerged as front-runners to secure the services of the former England coach, Dick Best, as director of rugby. Best yesterday settled a dispute with Harlequins, who dismissed him six months ago.

## Lonard leads

**■ GOLF:** Peter Lonard, the Australian Masters champion, recorded a course-record, nine-under-par 63 to take a two-stroke lead in the opening round of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. He leads Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, on 65.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
Defence is one of the hardest areas of the game. Would you have avoided the trap on the following hand?

Dealer North	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ 5 ♥ A J 10 6 ♦ K Q 10 9 6 ♣ K 8 4	♠ 10 7 ♥ K ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ A J 10 9 8 5	

S	W	N	E
2H	Pass	1D	2C
4H	All Pass	3H	Pass

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: queen of clubs

Against Four Hearts, West leads the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. East cashes the jack of clubs, but what should he play next? It looks routine to play a third club but if declarer ruffs high — which seems likely — then West is unable to overruff and the cat will be well and truly out of the bag. Even the most unenterprising declarer will now, surely, reject the trump finesse and pin his hopes on East's "marked" king being bare.

So East should switch to a spade at trick three and not reveal the position. A suspicious declarer will still come to the right conclusion as to why East did not continue with a third club; but at least East will have provided an exact blueprint of the lay-out.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**PLOCHTEACH**  
a. A supply teacher  
b. A board game  
c. A sheep disease

**FLAPDRAGON**  
a. A pancake  
b. A biplane  
c. Raisins in brandy

**GUTTLE**  
a. To make a pig of oneself  
b. To catch a fish by hand  
c. Idle gossip

**ARISTOLOGY**  
a. The study of nobles  
b. The art of lurching  
c. The science of corn

Answers on page 50

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Prodigy shines

It was interesting to observe that Britain's young prodigy, Luke McShane, 13, had to struggle somewhat to achieve his international master title and on a number of occasions narrowly missed the norm before, eventually becoming Britain's youngest ever international master. Having jumped that hurdle, though, McShane is now swiftly beginning to challenge for the grandmaster title. Here are two of his wins from the London International.

White: Luke McShane  
Black: Angus Dunnington

London, October 1997

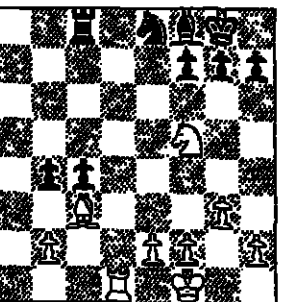
Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d6
3 d4	Nf6
4 Nc3	cx4
5 Nc4	g6
6 Be3	Bg7
7 f3	Nc6
8 Bc4	0-0
9 Qd2	Bc7
10 0-0-0	Nc5
11 Bc3	Rc8
12 h4	h5
13 Bg5	Rc5
14 Kf1	b5
15 g4	a5
16 g5	Nb5
17 Nd5	Re8
18 Nf4	a4
19 Nb5	g5
20 Bc5	Rxc5
21 exd5	Nc4
22 Qc2	Qc5
23 Rhg1	Kf8
24 Bc1	a3
25 Nb3	axb2
26 Bxb2	Na3
27 Kc1	Bxb2+
28 Kxb2	Qb4
29 Qa1	Nc4
30 Kc1	Qa3
31 Qc3+	h6

## SHIPPING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Speelman — Vellimirovic, Maribor 1980. Black's advanced queenside pawns give him an edge in this endgame. How did Speelman now neutralise Black's efforts to win the game?



Solution on page 50

## Good news for NatWest Card Plus customers

NatWest announces that from 1 December 1997, the interest rate for its Card Plus account for 11-20 year olds will be increased to:

Gross interest per annum*	5.00%
Gross C.A.R.**	5.12%
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Merit Cup finishes leg almost four days behind winner

## Dalton finds nowhere to hide

Edward Gorman sees  
a great sailor wipe  
the egg from his face  
and hatch a new plan  
for the rest of the race

THIS was the most painful of Whitbread finishes: the great Grant Dalton, in his fifth Whitbread Round the World Race, the winner of the maxi class in the previous race, struggling into Fremantle in seventh place at the end of the second leg, 95 hours behind the leg-winner, Gunnar Krantz, on Swedish Match.

In doing so, Dalton, of New Zealand, and his highly rated crew on *Merit Cup* have blown a huge hole in one of the best-prepared Whitbread campaigns, amassing just 48 points for the leg and slipping to fifth place overall. Never, even in their worst nightmares, did Dalton and his team envisage arriving anywhere in seventh place.

On the dock, under a starlit sky, it was agonising to watch as Dalton, or "Dalt", as he is known, stepped sheepishly ashore, hands in pockets, to face race officials who, oblivious to the realities of the situation, persevered with the second-leg medal ceremony and then the presentation to Dalton and his crew of two magnificents of champagne.

Rarely can such excellent wine have been more predictably and needlessly wasted. Dalton himself declined the

'Never in their worst  
nightmares did they  
envisage arriving  
anywhere in seventh'

chance to spray the waiting cameramen, so two of his crew, with ruthless and unsmiling intent, sprayed him instead, emptying the lid without a drop passing their lips.

In the background, not visible but present in the minds of many of those watching, were the all-women crew on *EF Education*. With just 65 miles left to sail as Dalton crossed the line, they must have been glowing with satisfaction. They had not beaten him, but to finish within as little as five hours of *Merit Cup* over 4,600 miles of the Southern Ocean was humiliating for a man who has often had the temerity to say that all-women crews have no place racing against the men in the Whitbread.

Dalton is a decent man, though, and he was big enough to acknowledge, not only that he had a little egg on his face, but also that Christine Gullou and her crew on *EF Education* deserved praise for the way in which they have applied themselves during one of the toughest legs in the Whitbread.

"If they had beaten us, I would have stabbed myself through the heart with the dividers on the chart table," Dalton said. "Another of the crew would have done something unprintable with a pineapple." A few minutes later, at the dockside press conference, he added: "They [the women] actually did a really nice job — these are very physical boats and they did a really nice job."

Although admitting that this was the



Dalton tries to put a brave face on his second-leg embarrassment after limping into Fremantle yesterday

worst experience of his long professional sailing career. Dalton came ashore with a bruised ego but showing all the signs of a man ready to fight back. "Obviously we are angry with ourselves, but once my ego has corrected itself, we'll be able to sit down and reflect on what went wrong," he said. "I firmly believe that to win, you have to be consistent. We have topped

being consistent for a leg and we will have to win the next leg."

It all went irretrievably wrong for *Merit Cup* on the eighth day out from Cape Town, when Dalton and his long-time navigator, Mike Quilter, got themselves caught out to the north while in fourth place. Suddenly, boats behind them that had been prepared to travel additional distances to get

further south, were flying as they got the best of a new low-pressure system, while *Merit Cup* floundered in light winds, quickly slipping 100 miles behind the pack. Soon they were in completely different weather and, while Lawrie Smith, on *Silk Cut*, and the others ahead started stacking up 400-mile days, Dalton was drifting into what he called "delivery mode".

Yesterday he said that he had always aimed to be race leader by the time the fleet reached Auckland, at the end of the nine legs. If an overall win was to be achieved, in-view of his unexpected setback, he has revised his strategy and now hopes to lead by Fort Lauderdale, at the end of the sixth of the nine legs. Dalton also said that he would be employing a new meteorological team to advise Quilter, who would work alongside his existing router, Bob Rice, with whom *Merit Cup* have an exclusive contract.

In common with an increasing number of skippers in this fascinating race, Dalton is delighted that the old elapsed-time scoring system is now history. "Thank heavens for the points system," he said, to howls of laughter all around. "I am a big fan of the points system — there's no doubt about that."



Christine Briand, left, and Bridget Suckling helped to keep *EF Education* within striking distance of Dalton and *Merit Cup* on the second leg



## HOCKEY

## Clifton seek to travel down road of change

CLIFTON, who face a 600-mile round trip in the English Hockey Association Women's Cup on Sunday, are thankful for a Premier League home game against Sutton Coldfield tomorrow (a Correspondent writes). The fourth-round cup draw against Whitley Bay is "a nightmare", according to the Clifton manager, Graham Culliford, who would like a regionalised draw until the last 16.

"Flying on Sunday would have used up our entire Scottish Life sponsorship money of £2,000," he said. "The chosen option of a coach and overnight stay is still a huge expense. Apart from that, it is crucifying the players, who will have a hard future day before on Saturday."

Clifton, in second place, should maintain their league

position at the expense of a Sutton Coldfield side that has dropped into the relegation zone with only four points from six games.

In other games, Hightown visit Slough in the league and are at home to Canterbury, of the first division, in the cup; Doncaster meet a depleted Ipswich side in the league and Blueharts, of the second division, in the cup; and Olton travel to Trojans in the league and Taunton Vale in the cup.

□ Kerry Moore, a midfielder, and Katy Roberts, a goalkeeper, are the only newcomers to the 1998 England squad of 24 announced yesterday.

SQUAD: H. Rose, C. Reid, K. Roberts, J. Benson, S. Blinck, K. Bowden, P. Miller, J. Mould, C. Voss, K. Brown, L. Copleland, M. Nicholls, J. Smith, M. Clewlow, J. Empson, T. Cudon, L. Newcombe, M. Davies, J. Scammon, P. Greenham, M. Moore, L. Wright, D. Marston, S. Miller.

## Reading set sights on double

MANAGERS and coaches generally disapprove of double headers because of the physical strain on players (Sydney Friskin writes). However, nine premier division clubs are involved in the fifth round of the men's English Hockey Association Cup on Sunday and all 12 face a full league programme tomorrow.

Three previous winners, Teddington, Guildford and East Grinstead, have been eliminated from the cup competition, leaving the top three sides in the league, Cannock, Southgate and Reading, with their sights on the double this season.

Reading have an easier weekend, having beaten East Grinstead in the fourth round of the cup a fortnight ago and Southgate in the league last Sunday.

With an unchanged side, they have a league engagement against Teddington and a cup-tie against Bedford Tigers. Both are away games.

Cannock, according to Martin Gilbody, their manager, are still shell-shocked after the 6-1 defeat at Canterbury last week, but will make no changes for the home matches against Guildford in the league and Old Loughborough in the cup.

Toughness is a commodity that Hounslow will need for their away cup match against Canterbury. Paul King, the Hounslow manager, expects Nick Taylor, his goalkeeper, to be kept busy, but said: "Much will depend on how Bolland plays in deep defence."

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

1. PLOCHTEACH

(c) Photosensitisation of hill lambs causing lesions and cropping of the ears. It is thought to be increasing, and may be the same as yellowsoot or stant. It may be caused by eating bog asphodel, which has a yellow flower.

2. FLAPDRAGON

(a) "A play in which they catch raisins out of burning brandy and, extinguishing them by closing the mouth, eat them." That is, a snapdragon. If you can play snapdragon, you can play flapdragon. The original sense may have been identical with a dialectal sense of snapdragon, viz. a figure of a dragon's head with snapping jaws, carried about by the mummers at Christmas.

3. GUTTLE

(a) To eat voraciously; to gormandise. Presumably from gut influenced by guzzle. Thackeray, *Critical Review*, 1844: "Cleopatra's page guttling the figs in the basket which had brought the asp."

4. ARISTOTOLOGY

(b) The art or "science" of dining. From the Greek *ariston* breakfast, lunch, or *aglaia* discourse. "The Romans defied all the rules of aristology by their abominable excesses."

5. SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bxg7 Nxb7 2 Nc7 Kf8 3 Nxb2 Bxb2 4 Nxb2 c5 Nc2 c6 Nxb2 and White will be a pawn up 2 Nhb2 Kf8 3 Nxb7 Kf8 4 Nhb2 with perpetual check.

## Too young to drink

999 Lifesavers  
BBC1, 8.00pm

The 999 series is usually about people who go through dreadful experiences but manage to survive to tell the tale. The tradition is broken tonight in a special edition devoted to under-age drinking. Among those not appearing is Graham Bailey. He died on a railway line next to the pub where he had drunk more than six pints of lager at a friend's birthday party. He was 14. We also hear about Leigh Green, who became addicted to alcohol after starting drinking at 11. The habit has not only split his family but led him to crime and prison. These and other cases put flesh on a survey showing that some 140,000 children in Britain under 16 drink the equivalent of seven pints of beer a week. The programme includes an information film on the physical and social effects of alcohol, made with the Health Education Authority.

War Walks  
BBC2, 8.00pm

Professor Richard Holmes may remind some viewers of Dr Magnus Pyke, another man of learning who became a distinguished television populariser. The two men are not dissimilar in looks and they have the same bustling enthusiasm for their subject. In the arm-waving department, however, Pyke still reigns supreme. Tonight, Holmes reaches the English Civil War and the decisive battle at Naseby in Northamptonshire in June 1645. Even those who find the period less than gripping will respond to Holmes's spirited narrative which, as usual, is good on the historical background and the weaponry and does its best to evoke the sense of place. But while the site of the conflict is still yielding up musket balls and other artefacts of battle, the fields of oil seed rape give the area a most un-17th century appearance.

Most Wanted  
ITV, 9.00pm

This is essentially a variation on the *Crimeswatch* formula of using television to appeal to the public to help solve crimes. As the title implies, the emphasis is on people the police most want to find, whether dangerous criminals or missing persons thought to be at risk. One of tonight's appeals



Routledge goes undercover (BBC1, 9.30pm)

concerns a serial rapist. According to forensic tests he has committed three attacks in the past two years but the police suspect him of many more. He is thought to be a lorry driver and his attacks are becoming more vicious each time. The series also includes features on the latest developments in detection and novel ways of running home advice on crime prevention. The hosts are Penny Smith, who presents *Crime Monthly* in the ITV London region, and Dermot Murnaghan of ITN and *The Big Story*.

Heity Wainthrop Investigates  
BBC1, 9.30pm

Patricia Routledge's OAP detective returns for a third series to right more wrongs and to leave the *Dragonfield*, which it has succeeded in this slot, this is a show to feel comfortable with. The portents may appear to be on the dark side, and none more so than tonight's plot about an arsonist terrorising a council estate. But what appears to be big crimes turn out to be controllable and nobody gets seriously hurt. Although it is not very believable that a woman should celebrate her senior citizenship by setting up a detective agency, and even less that the police should take her seriously, Routledge's expert and sympathetic performance is a continued delight. The same can be said of *Darwin Monaghan* as Henry's even more unlikely young assistant. Peter Barnard

## RADIO CHOICE

Performance on 3: Prokofiev Festival  
Radio 3, 7.30pm

The pick of a pretty thin night is this, the first of three broadcasts from the Festival Hall which will feature works by Sergei Prokofiev that are not often played. Tonight's programme, narrated by Simon Callow, focuses on early compositions, written at a time when Prokofiev, having won a place at the St Petersburg Conservatory when he was only 13, had emerged as an anti-establishment. Tonight's programme starts with the *Violin Concerto No 1* and includes, at 8.25, *Chout: Tale of the Buffoon*, a ballet commissioned by Diaghilev. That is preceded, at 8.05, by a word portrait of the composer who had written two operas by the age of 11 and whose musical output was to continue to be prodigious for the rest of his life (he died in 1953).

## RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo White, includes at 12.30pm Newbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 3.00 News 4.00 Radio 1 News 5.00 Paul O'Grady 6.00 Selection 8.00 Judge Juice 11.00 Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00pm One in the Jungle 4.00 Charlie Jordan

## RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Dingle 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night in Music 9.15 Kae 9.30 Later to the Band 10.00 The Arts Programme 12.00am Radio 2 News 4.00 Diane Louise Jordan

## RADIO 3 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nick Campbell. Topical phone-in, plus European and holiday issues 12.00 Today with Mark Radcliffe 2.00pm Radio 3 News 3.00 Friday 7.00 News 7.30 Alan Gora's Sportschat 8.30 Friday Sport. Charlton Athletic v Swindon Town, from The Valley. Plus, tennis news from the Davis Cup final, and Richard Dunwoody with the weekend's racing 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00pm Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

## VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Graham Dene 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (AM) Nicky Harris 4.00 Russ 7.00 7.30 Paul Coyne (AM) Carin Jones 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00pm Richard Porter

## TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill Overton and Carol McGiffin 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 London's Best 2.00pm Tommy Byrne 4.00 Radio 1 News 7.00 Muz Day's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00pm Mike Dickinson

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Haydn (String Quartet in D minor, Fritts); Debussy (Preludes); Beethoven (Egmont Overture); Handel (Music for the Royal Fireworks); Garthwaite, Isaac Gibbons (Overturn, Gilt Cray); Mozart (Flute and Harp Concerto in C)  
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobbay. Schubert (Symphony No. 9); Bach (Toccata and Fugue in D minor); Gluck (Dance of the Blessed Spirits); Liszt (Transcendental Studies Nos 9-12)  
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. Robert Schumann (Waltz in A-flat major); Gershwin (Through the Looking Glass); Mahler (Symphony No. 2); Mahler (Furiant); Beethoven (Cello Sonata in A); Schubert (Lullaby); Mahler (Lieder eines Unruhigen)  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Massenet  
1.00pm Performance on 3. Chamber Music from Manchester. The Fiddlers' Quartet performs Schubert's Piano Quintet in A-flat major, and the Fiddlers' Quartet performs Schubert's Piano Quintet in A-flat major.  
2.00 The BBC Archive. Schubert editions of piano music and string quartets. Stephen Pielou introduces three early quartets played by the Musica Quartet of Stuttgart and pays tribute to the pianist Maria Donskaya, a Schnabel pupil, who died last year. Includes Schubert (String Quartet in D); Beethoven (String Quartet in C); Schubert (String Quartet in C); and Schubert (String Quartet in C).  
4.00 Music Review. Programmes by Stephen Storr, Williams Shield and others are mixed with help

## RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is the theatre producer Thea Hill (c).  
9.45 Bookclub. Presented by Chris Durkin  
10.00 (LW) An Act of Worship  
10.10 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler  
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Ruth Wainwright  
11.30 The National Library Programme  
12.00 News; You and Yours. Mark Whitaker presents reports on consumer and social affairs  
12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke  
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast  
2.00 News; Classic Serial: War and Peace. Leo Tolstoy's epic novel, it is 1805, and the Austrians — Russia's allies — have been routed by Napoleon. In the next episode, the French are in particular Prince Andrei Bolonsky, facing almost certain annihilation at Austerlitz (2/10) (c)  
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor  
4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow tries out what he is in the Millennium Dome with the help of Stephen Bayley, project consultant, and members of the public  
4.45 Short Story: Her First Ball, by Katherine Mansfield, read by Sara Coad (c)  
5.00 PM, with Clare English and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 6.55 Weather  
6.00 Six O'Clock News

## RADIO 5

6.30 Going Places. David Stafford presents more ideas for the weekend ahead. Includes the travel writer Frank Serfaty in search of the real-life Tom Brown's schoolboys at Rugby  
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers  
7.20 The Book of the Week, with Chris Serle  
7.30 Any Questions? with Chris Jackson, Charles Kennedy and David Willetts join Jonathan Dimbleby in Canterbury, Kent  
8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berthiaume  
9.15 Letter from America. Alister Cooke with another slice of Americana  
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: The Curious Case of Homer Godden. Clare Jenkins asks why Turner generation (c)  
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig  
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another Time, Another Adventure. Kesson's account of an American worker in 1944 (5/10)  
11.00 Week Ending. Satirical review of the week's news, with Sally Grace, Jon Glover, Dave Lamb and Sarah Pearson  
11.25 Fourth Column. More wit and wisdom from the nice people who put the world to rights on a weekly basis  
11.45 Today in Parliament  
12.00 News 12.30pm The Late Book: Hotel for the Holidays, by Jay McInerney, read by William Hope (c)  
12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.2; RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2; RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4; RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.2; LW 150, MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 958, 959. WORLD SERVICE, MW 945, LW 150 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100.102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8, 105.9, 106.1, 106.2, 106.3, 106.4, 106.5, 106.6, 106.7, 106.8, 106.9, 107.0, 107.1, 107.2, 107.3, 107.4, 107.5, 107.6, 107.7, 107.8, 107.9, 108.0, 108.1, 108.2, 108.3, 108.4, 108.5, 108.6, 108.7, 108.8, 108.9, 109.0, 109.1, 109.2, 109.3, 109.4, 109.5, 109.6, 109.7, 109.8, 109.9, 110.0, 110.1, 110.2, 110.3, 110.4, 110.5, 110.6, 110.7, 110.8, 110.9, 111.0, 111.1, 111.2, 111.3, 111.4, 111.5, 111.6, 111.7, 111.8, 111.9, 112.0, 112.1, 112.2, 112.3, 112.4, 112.5, 112.6, 112.7, 112.8, 112.9, 113.0, 113.1, 113.2, 113.3, 113.4, 113.5, 113.6, 113.7, 113.8, 113.9, 114.0, 114.1, 114.2, 114.3, 114.4, 114.5, 114.6, 114.7, 114.8, 114.9, 115.0, 115.1, 115.2, 115.3, 115.4, 115.5, 115.6, 115.7, 115.8, 115.9, 116.0, 116.1, 116.2, 116.3, 116.4, 116.5, 116.6, 116.7, 116.8, 116.9, 117.0, 117.1, 117.2, 117.3, 117.4, 117.5, 117.6, 117.7, 117.8, 117.9, 118.0, 118.1, 118.2, 118.3, 118.4, 118.5, 118.6, 118.7, 118.8, 118.9, 119.0, 119.1, 119.2, 119.3, 119.4, 119.5, 119.6, 119.7, 119.8, 119.9, 120.0, 120.1, 120.2, 120.3, 120.4, 120.5, 120.6, 120.7, 120.8, 120.9, 121.0, 121.1, 121.2, 121.3, 121.4, 121.5, 121.6, 121.7, 121.8, 121.9, 122.0, 122.1, 122.2, 122.3, 122.4, 122.5, 122.6, 122.7, 122.8, 122.9, 123.0, 123.1, 123.2, 123.3, 123.4, 123.5, 123.6, 123.7, 123.8, 123.9, 124.0, 124.1, 124.2, 124.3, 124.4, 124.5, 124.6, 124.7, 124.8, 124.9, 125.0, 125.1, 125.2, 125.3, 125.4, 125.5, 125.6, 125.7, 125.8, 125.9, 126.0, 126.1, 126.2, 126.3, 126.4, 126.5, 126.6, 126.7, 126.8, 126.9, 127.0, 127.1, 127.2, 127.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.6, 127.7, 127.8, 127.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.0, 129.1, 129.2, 129.3, 129.4, 129.5, 129.6, 129.7, 129.8, 129.9, 130.0, 130.1, 130.2, 130.3, 130.4, 130.5, 130.6, 130.7, 130.8, 130.9, 131.0, 131.1, 131.2, 131.3, 131.4, 131.5, 131.6, 131.7, 131.8, 131.9, 132.0, 132.1, 132.2, 132.3, 132.4, 132.5, 132.6, 132.7, 132.8, 132.9, 133.0, 133.1, 133.2, 133.3, 133.4, 133.5, 133.6, 133.7, 133.8, 133.9, 134.0, 134.1, 134.2, 134.3, 134.4, 134.5, 134.6, 134.7, 134.8, 134.9, 135.0, 135.1, 135.2, 135.3, 135.4, 135.5, 135.6, 135.7, 135.8, 135.9, 136.0, 136.1, 136.2, 136.3, 136.4, 136.5, 136.6, 136.7, 136.8, 136.9, 137.0, 137.1, 137.2, 137.3, 137.4, 137.5, 137.6, 137.7, 137.8, 137.9, 138.0, 138.1, 138.2, 138.3, 138.4, 138.5, 138.6, 138.7, 138.8, 138.9, 139.0, 139.1, 139.2, 139.3, 139.4, 139.5, 139.6, 139.7, 139.8, 139.9, 140.0, 140.1, 140.2, 140.3, 140.4, 140.5, 140.6, 140.7, 140.8, 140.9, 141.0, 141.1, 141.2, 141.3, 141.4, 141.5, 141.6, 141.7, 141.8, 141.9, 142.0, 142.1, 142.2, 142.3, 142.4, 142.5, 142.6, 142.7, 142.8, 142.9, 143.0, 143.1, 143.2, 143.3, 143.4, 143.5, 143.6, 143.7, 143.8, 143.9, 144.0, 144.1, 144.2, 144.3, 144.4, 144.5, 144.6, 144.7, 144.8, 144.9, 145.0, 145.1, 145.2, 145.3, 145.4, 145.5, 145.6, 145.7, 145.8, 145.9, 146.0, 146.1, 146.2, 146.3, 146.4, 146.5, 146.6, 146.7, 146.8, 146.9, 147.0, 147.1, 147.2, 147.3, 147.4, 147.5, 147.6, 147.7, 147.8, 147.9, 148.0, 148.1, 148.2, 148.3, 148.4, 148.5, 148.6, 148.7, 148.8, 148.9, 149.0, 149.1, 149.2, 149.3, 149.4, 149.5, 149.6, 149.7, 149.8, 149.9, 150.0, 150.1, 150.2, 150.3, 150.4, 150.5, 150.6, 150.7, 150.8, 150.9, 151.0, 151.1, 151.2, 151.3, 151.4, 151.5, 151.6, 151.7, 151.8, 151.9, 152.0, 152.1, 152.2, 152.3, 152.4, 152.5, 152.6, 152.7, 152.8, 152.9, 153.0, 153.1, 153.2, 153.3, 153.4, 153.5, 153.6, 153.7, 153.8, 153.9, 154.0, 154.1, 154.2, 154.3, 154.4, 154.5, 154.6, 154.7, 154.8, 154.9, 155.0, 155.1, 155.2, 155.3, 155.4, 155.5, 155.6, 155.7, 155.8, 155.9, 156.0, 156.1, 156.2, 156.3, 156.4, 156.5, 156.6, 156.7, 156.8, 156.9, 157.0, 157.1, 157.2, 157.3, 157.4, 157.5, 157.6, 157.7, 157.8, 157.9, 158.0, 158.1, 158.2, 158.3, 158.4, 158.5, 158.6, 158.7, 158.8, 158.9, 159.0, 159.1, 159.2, 159.3, 159.4, 159.5, 159.6, 159.7, 159.8, 159.9, 160.0, 160.1, 160.2, 160.3, 160.4, 160.5, 160.6, 160.7, 160.8, 160.9, 161.0, 161.1, 161.2, 161.3, 161.4, 161.5, 161.6, 161.7, 161.8, 161.9, 162.0, 162.1, 162.2, 162.3, 162.4, 162.5, 162.6, 162.7, 162.8, 162.9, 163.0, 163.1, 163.2, 163.3, 163.4, 163.5, 163.6, 163.7, 163.8, 163.9, 164.0, 164.1, 164.2, 164.3, 164.4, 164.5, 16



# A fond, sad farewell to Flora and the Grove

I wasn't quite "stop all the clocks" time, but it was close. Up and down the country yesterday afternoon, front rooms that normally echo to the sound of noisy teenagers fell quiet, the silence broken only by a familiar television sound: the tune and the sound of sobbing. The last episode of *Byker Grove* (BBC1) had just finished and Flora had actually died. No miracle cure, no last-minute remission — just dead.

With the memory still vivid of the pink balloon rising symbolically into the Tyneside sky, children everywhere will have faced the same challenge: How to cheer up a parent who can't stop crying.

Disgusting handkerchiefs dabbed awkwardly at pink-rimmed eyes. "Come on, Mum, she's not really dead, it's only television," the sobbing subsided, but only as long as it took for the emotional parent to remember Terry — Terry who loved Flora, of

course — nobly recovering the bag that contained all her treasured possessions only to discover that... it was too late.

Between sniffs, distraught parents wondered how they could spare their children such awful scenes while, behind dabs, sensitive children wondered how to tell them they already knew. "There she was, Mum. People get sick, people die, it's natural," "Not on children's television, it isn't."

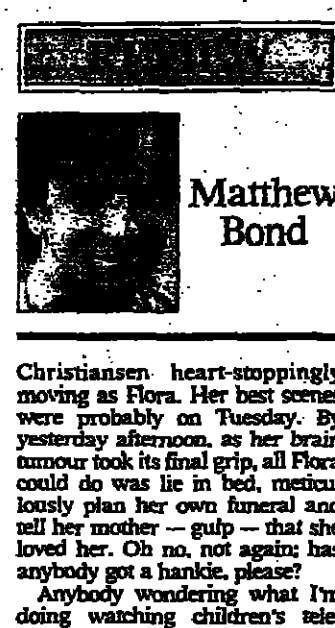
Certainly it wasn't when I was a legitimate watcher of children's television rather than an occasional viewer. I've had a long, hard think — *Belle and Sebastian*, *The Singing Ringing Tree*, *Pollyanna* — and I can't remember anybody dying. Elderly relatives occasionally "went away" and one or two animals, but nobody actually died.

Not like Flora, spirited, pretty Flora, who barely a fortnight ago was running away from home. She only had a headache then.

Death, like everything else in *Byker Grove*, happens quickly and it is this pace that allows the long-running series, based loosely on a Newcastle youth centre, to tackle subjects that perhaps only *Grange Hill* has come close to in the past. If Karen (Kimberly Dunsby) just happens accidentally to set fire to her own hair, you know that in the next couple of scenes she will have owned up (twice) and been cautioned by the police.

Nevertheless, while good always wins in the end, some of the storylines in the series, tackling such subjects as racism, bullying and under-age sex, have made for slightly uncomfortable viewing. At least for parents.

But Flora's death was beautifully done. Chris Woodger was the epitome of awkward adolescent confusion as Terry and Kerryann



Matthew Bond

vision, can't have seen Channel 4's latest offering for grown-ups. "I'm bored rigid," announced Simon, midway through *Pemmies*. Me too, Simon, me too.

On paper, *Pemmies* must have looked such a good idea, a three-part documentary about eccentric Brits who live in Australia. Should be interesting and funny, perfect. But it was interesting and funny, what was it doing on at 10pm, especially on a channel that is increasingly aware of the box-office appeal of lightweight documentaries? Being very bad and very boring was what it was doing.

It should have been refreshing to see a documentary-maker abandon the fly-on-the-wall technique, but what Brian Hill replaced it with may have been more of *Sylvia Waters*. He just didn't have enough material, especially material that was — to embrace the vernacular — on message. Did the making of a commercial for

Australian cheese really have much to do with being a Brit in Australia? Despite the fact it was written by one — to wit, Simon — the answer is no. Nevertheless, we saw hours of it.

Hill's disappointingly straightforward approach was to allow his three subjects (two men and one couple) to say their party piece to camera. So Simon, the copywriter, cracked a lot of pre-rehearsed jokes ("the thing I miss most about England? France"); Rowan, the television producer, banged on about failings in Australia's national character; and the Boyles complained a lot. They decided to come home, you see.

They had been there for seven years, during which time they appeared to have gone off the beach, the views, the birds, the beer, the barbecues, the steaks, the sausages, the mosquitoes, the jelly-

fish, the snakes, the ants and the sharks. Me — I'd just gone off *Pemmies*.

Thankfully, the edition of *Dispatches* (Channel 4) that preceded it was rather better. It was hardly ground-breaking — there have been doubts about the worth of the ten-year warranty issued by the National House Builders Council since Noah failed to tie-in the timbers of his Ark — but the familiar stories of incompetent builders and inadequate compensation were well marshalled and made decent viewing.

Faced with the complaints, the new chief executive of the NHBC bravely chose to conduct a lengthy damage-limitation exercise on camera. With one or two exceptions, he made a pretty good job of it. But then, as he explained, he wasn't a householder at all. His background was local government. Glutton for punishment, then.

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (22303)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (27751)
9.00 Good Living (520206)
9.25 Style Challenge (520204)
9.50 Killy (1) (273193)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (198196)
10.35 The Really Useful Show (787645)
11.35 Change That (516088)
12.00 News (1) (297757)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (886496)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (298574)
1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (27138)
1.30 Regional News (2401788)
1.40 The Weather Show (5988751)
1.45 Neighbours Phil and Ruth make plans for a weekend away (1) (4020119)
2.05 Quincy Jack Nugent stars (1) (2980894)
2.55 Wogan's Best of Blatantly Bland (1) (7007157)
3.30 Playdays (584409) 3.50 Dear Mr Barker (585554) 4.00 The All-New Playdays Show (585554) 4.10 Casper (3517157) 4.35 Record Breakers (194408)
5.00 Newsround (1) (518732)
5.10 Blue Peter The team investigate global climate changes (1) (9048732)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (52515)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) (709)
6.30 Regional News (751)
7.00 Wogan's Best of Blatantly Bland with Anne Robinson (1) (2552)
7.30 Top of the Pops Video, studio performances and a countdown of the latest chart-climbers (1) (935)
8.00 999 Lifesavers Young people's attitudes to alcohol concern Michael Buerk in a special programme (1) (732)
8.30 Only Fools and Horses Love is in the air for the Trotter brothers as the new park in Rodney's life brings a chance encounter with one of Dad's old flames David Jason stars (1) (1) (587)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (1) (413)
9.30 Hetty Wainthorpe Investigate in the first of a new series, Hetty gets cosy with a quilt-making circle to gain insider knowledge on who is terrorising a local housing estate with a series of arson attacks. With Patricia Routledge (1) (474577)
10.20 The Wogan Years David Hoffman, Paul McCartney, Gregory Peck, Goldie Hawn and the Tens. Tenors join the amiable host for a chat (1) (1) (73596) WALES: 10.20 Picture Wales (700480) 11.55 Snooker: UK Championship (700732) 12.45am FILM: Mr Baseball (823542) 2.25 News headlines and weather (471282) 2.30 BBC News 24
10.55 Snooker: UK Championship Dougie Donnelly presents the concluding frames from today's first best-of-17 semi-final at Preston's Guild Hall (600225)
11.45 Mr Baseball (1993) Sporting comedy, starring Tom Selleck as a fading baseball star offered the chance to rejuvenate his career by joining a team in Japan. Directed by Fred Schepisi (65577)
1.20am Weather (520184)
1.25 BBC News 24

BBC2
6.00am Social Sciences: Global Firms in the Industrial East (1) (3154)
6.30 Yes, We Never Say No (58751) 7.00 See Her Breakfast News (1) (593195)
7.15 Tenabables (1) (455191) 7.40 The Perils of Penelope Pitcairn (1) (593157)
8.05 Smart (1) (1) (251554) 8.30 William's Wish Wellingtons (319206) 8.35 Wishing (1) (420640)
8.45 The Record (5201835)
9.10 Musical Makers (2805867) 9.30 Watch (1) (198964) 9.45 Come Outside 10.00 Tenabables (1) (40033) 10.30 Look and Read (2027408) 10.50 The Art (2007645) 11.10 Landscapes (1) (1) (222536) 11.30 English Film: George Eliot (8954) 12.00 Scene (11845)
12.30pm Working Lunch (71515) 1.00 The Little Polar Bear (72048028) 1.05 Pingu (7348587)
1.10 The History Hour from the Coker Valley (8048848)
2.10 Snooker: UK Championship The first semi-final (23956409)
6.00 The Simpsons Bart turns detective to clear Krusty the Clown of committing a robbery (1) (1) (59003)
6.20 Electric Circus News, views and reviews from the world of entertainment. Presented by Margherita Taylor (1) (1) (5857)
6.40 Snooker: UK Championship More live action from today's first semi-final (304916)
7.30 Earth and Life: Cosmic Bullies How meteorites have shaped the Earth's history (1) (577)
8.00 War Walks: It Necessarily Richard Holmes visits Naseby, where in 1645 Charles I was defeated by the Parliamentarians in the most crucial battle of the English Civil War (1) (4374)
8.30 Good Hamilton's Paradise Gardens (1) (1) (3409)
9.00 Shooting Stars (1) (1) (5481)
9.30 The Fast Show Comedy sketches, featuring a new series of sketches, and the Sult You Told Us and Unlucky Alf's funniest adventures (51751)
10.00 Have I Got News for You Satirical quiz, with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton joined by guests Warren Mitchell and Hattie Hayridge (12374)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (540645)
10.30 Newsnight (1) (870157)
11.15 The A Force Ray Diamond and guest Mr Motivator introduce the best in black entertainment (310916)
1.00am VR 5 Sydney journeys back in time to an East German railway station, where she discovers some startling facts (1) (584387)
1.40 Quantum Leap (1) (553484)
2.30 Weather (595523)

HTV
6.00am GMTV (475259)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (1) (5278461)
9.55 Regional News and weather (5795190)
10.00 The Time, the Place (78157)
10.30 This Morning (48071935)
12.20pm Regional News (8968461)
12.30 News (1) and weather (2022798)
12.55 WALES: The Fashion Police (1) (290190)
1.25 Monopolymania (1) (290190)
1.25 Home and Away (1) (3064913)
1.50 Murder, She Wrote (5439616)
2.00 WALES: The Pulse (1) (331751)
2.50 You Can Cook (5331751)
3.20 News (1) (590408)
3.25 Regional News (1) (564248)
3.30 Jay's World (574428) 3.40 Titch (554854) 3.55 Bernard's Watch (584512) 4.15 The Best of Hey Arnold! (1) (586028) 4.40 Fun House (1) (510409)
5.10 A Country Practice (5901683)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (1) and weather (78339)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (302190)
6.25 Weather (84577)
6.30 WALES: Wales Tonight (119)
6.30 The West Tonight (119)
7.00 Bruce's Price Is Right (1) (5480)
7.30 Coronation Street Des decides it's time for Les to back off (1) (913)

CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (290190)
2.50-3.20 Our House (531751)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5601683)
5.50-6.00 Air Watch (266886)
6.25-7.00 Central News (845577)
10.40 Central Weekend Live (1558886)
12.10am Campus Cops (1615691)
12.40 The Paul Ross Show (3156349)
2.10 The Lads (3792829)
2.40 Box Office America (2053813)
3.05 Baywatch (5457455)
3.50 Heiter Sticker (190558)
4.40 Central Jollifier '97 (202271)
5.20 Astor Eye (5870504)
As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations. The Rev Sam Philpot describes the history of St Peter's Church, Plymouth (586461)
12.55 Home and Away (290190)
1.25 Wild About Devon. The Rev Steve Wild is lost in the wilds of Dartmoor (7903022)
1.55 Westcountry Update (97435848)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (268848)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5901683)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (43732)
12.25am Weekly World News (5776271)
As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 Shortland Street (290190)
1.50 Periphery Pets (97436577)
2.20-3.20 Highway to Heaven (1677732)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5901683)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (43732)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (252857)
10.45 Film: Jagged Edge (5259225)
5.00am Freeview (590707)
As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (5855596)
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (290190)
1.50 Backstage (97436577)
2.20-3.20 Highway to Heaven (1677732)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5601683)
6.25 Anglia Weather (429428)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (845577)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (577798)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (252857)
10.45 Film: Jagged Edge (5259225)
5.00am Freeview (590707)
Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (70461)
9.00 VeggieTrop (27748) 11.30 Sophie's World (1022) 12.00 Sesame Street (38041)
12.30pm Ricki Lake (56883) 1.00 Slot Meltham (5319062) 1.15 Slot Syniadula Bell (5855587) 1.30 Slot Gwynedd Without Borders (540154) 1.45 Film: The Cruise Ship (24029118) 4.00 Filmmaker to One (732) 4.30 Deals on Wheels (816) 5.00 Pimp (3886) 5.30 Countdown (508) 6.00 Newydddy (975022) 6.10 Heno (542918) 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (50857) 7.25 Y Cwyls Rygby (595916) 8.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 8.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 9.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 9.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 10.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 10.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 11.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 11.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 12.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 12.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 1.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 1.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 2.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 2.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 3.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 3.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 4.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 4.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 5.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 5.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 6.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 6.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 7.00 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 7.30 Cwyls Rygby (595916) 8.00 Cwyls 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# SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

Van Gaal offers consolation

## Newcastle gain support from unlikely source

By DAVID MADDOCK

EVEN in the post-match press conference, Newcastle United's venture into the Nou Camp stadium could not shake off the surreal qualities that had surrounded their European Cup Champions' League meeting with Barcelona.

When Louis van Gaal, the coach of the Spanish club, spoke, he did so in the language of the visiting team, waiting for it to be translated for the benefit of the local media with an air of almost complete indifference.

Van Gaal has some Spanish, but his mistrust of journalists in Barcelona is such that he preferred to converse with them, grudgingly, in English. Only when the Spanish press had departed did he visibly relax and open up to the extent that he almost broke into a smile. His theme? Football in England.

The former coach of Ajax is something of an aficionado of the FA Carling Premiership. His affection for the English game is apparently stronger than that for the sport in the country where he now plies his trade. The great tactician and organiser admires, naturally enough, the discipline of English players.

Surprisingly, he also has time for the standard of the game in Britain. When many would mock Newcastle's desperately flat performance in Barcelona, Van Gaal placed an emphasis on the positive.

In particular, he suggested that there is no need for pessimism about the future of the game in England, despite Newcastle's early exit from the Champions' League. "I like Newcastle and I like the way they play," he said. "But when you lose your two strikers you are almost finished."

\*Alan Shearer is one of the

best strikers around and any team without him and their second striker would find it impossible. But I think in Shearer, English football has a symbol that raises hope. Not only does he prove there is great technique in your game, but he will remain in England.

"I wanted to sign him when I was coach at Ajax, but I know it would be very difficult for me to sign him now. He earns a million dollars a year in England and if someone offers him 1½ million dollars, it would not matter to him.

Gross profit ..... 49

English football has the money to keep all its best players now and bring in the best overseas players. In a very short time that will become significant."

Van Gaal's assessment was accurate in the sense that Newcastle would certainly have proved a greater threat had they been able to draw on their first-choice forwards. However, their performance in the Nou Camp illustrated a constant British failing of recent seasons.



Van Gaal admiring

Everyone expected John Barnes to play up front in Barcelona, including, it seems, the Newcastle players. Kenny Dalglish decided to employ him in midfield, but even his team did not know that until the eve of the game. Thus Newcastle went into an important match not having once tried out a new formation.

Whereas Barcelona have worked on their system since July, honing every aspect of the new demands of Van Gaal, Newcastle go into matches with little preparation in training for whichever system they may adopt and play mostly off the cuff, relying on individual skills.

It may work in the Premiership, but against the continental elite it frequently does not. Of England's representatives in Europe, only Manchester United have a defined system that the players work on constantly in training, allowing them to feel comfortable with their tactics in matches.

This lack of preparation is a throw-back to the past when physically strong English teams felt that they could simply turn up and hold an advantage. Now they are matched in every department by European rivals who are better prepared tactically.

It is something that Dalglish must quickly address, but for the present he has more pressing problems. Once again the paucity of his squad was exposed and with it the now increasingly pertinent question of why money has not been made available to address the situation?

In his post-match analysis, the Newcastle manager clearly indicated that he needs to strengthen his squad, and the feeling persists that he is extremely frustrated at the lack of funds made available to do so, despite assurances when he took over at St James' Park that money was available.

There was at least one brighter note for the immediate future in the second-half performance of Aaron Hughes, the 18-year-old central defender. Hughes made an impressive appearance as a second-half substitute against Barcelona and his performance drew praise from Bryan Hamilton, the former Northern Ireland manager.

"He's going to be a really good player, no doubt about it. He's a super kid, who wants to learn, and at 6ft he's already a great size for a centre half," Hamilton said. "He can play the ball out of defence well and is very level-headed and sensible — a great pro."



Yawning glory: Paul Grayson, the Northampton fly half, found the England training session yesterday somewhat less than gripping. There will be no rest, though, for Nick Greenstock, who will replace Phil de Glanville for the match at Twickenham on Saturday. Report, page 48

## TV dispute may delay Lewis bout

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX LEWIS'S bout with Evander Holyfield for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world could be delayed indefinitely because of a wrangle between HBO and Showtime, two leading American cable television companies. Both are claiming the right to show the bout. It appears the matter can only be resolved by Holyfield taking a hand.

According to Showtime, its contract with Don King, Holyfield's promoter, allows it to demand 30 days' notice to negotiate for the contest and match a bid by any other television company. However, HBO is adamant that Lewis is contracted to appear exclusively on its channels.

Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, the company promoting Lewis, said last night: "I've just spoken to HBO and they have put Showtime on notice that the fight can only be shown on TVKO [HBO's pay-per-view arm]."

"Everything was looking good, but then we ran into trouble when Don King went to Showtime to ask them to waive their rights. They refused. And HBO naturally cannot be expected to budge either as they have Lennox under exclusive contract."

"It is now up to Holyfield and Jim Thomas [Holyfield's lawyer] to step in. King may be tied to Showtime, but Holyfield isn't. If Holyfield wants to fight Lennox, as we all think he does, he must tell King that his contract with Showtime has nothing to do with him."

"Even Seth Abraham [the president of Time-Warner Sport, the parent company of HBO] is not too optimistic. He said if Holyfield does not act, the fight was unlikely to be made."

Eliades said one solution would be to give the promotion to Panix, with King acting as a partner.

Thomas has always said that Holyfield wants to fight Lewis because he wants to retire as undisputed champion and Lewis is the only heavyweight of his era he has not met.

While confirming King has a right to stage Holyfield's contests, Thomas also believes that if King, for any reason, cannot act in the best interests of Holyfield, the contract with the promoter could not prevent Holyfield from signing with another company.

Thus, Eliades' plan for Panix to take over the promotion is a possibility Holyfield could fall back on.

## England Test trial put in cold storage for two years

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

England A game out forever, although it would have thought unlikely to take place in 1999 because of the World Cup.

Gleadow, who claimed their first county championship since 1969 by beating Somerset at Taunton in September, begin their defence of the title against Gloucestershire — one of the pace-setters last season — at Bristol on April 17 before returning to Cardiff to entertain Kent, who finished runners-up.

Sussex, the tallenders last season, will hope for better things under their new captain, Chris Adams, whose former county, Derbyshire, visit Hove on May 21.

"It's not a policy decision to drop the fixture, it's more of a scheduling problem," Tim Lamb, chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, said yesterday.

"We are starting the season a week earlier than normal because we want to give players a day off between a Test match and a possible vital one-day game. If you look at the fixtures, there is a day off between the end of the second Test at Lord's and the NatWest Trophy first round; the England players deserve a break."

"We did not think we could play the England A game even earlier because the senior England squad only returns from the West Indies on April 10. We are not ruling the

A varied international programme begins with the three-match Texaco Trophy series against South Africa before the five-Test programme against the same opponents starts at Edgbaston on June 4.

Sri Lanka, holders of the World Cup, have been awarded another one-off Test but this will be at the Oval, starting on August 27, rather than at Lord's as in the past.

Surrey, emphatic winners against Kent in the Benson and Hedges Cup final last season, begin the competition on April 28 against Hampshire while Essex, the NatWest Trophy winners, travel to Cheshire for their first-round tie on June 24.

**TIMES TWO CROSSWORD**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24

**No 1263**

**ACROSS**

1 Rock layers (6)

5 Frame of mind (4)

9 Displaced person (7)

10 Accomplish, reach (6)

11 Twelve Labour man (8)

12 Plough and the Stars playwright (6)

15 Jail officer (6)

18 Hamlet's uncle, "I, —" (Graves) (5)

20 Mark of infamy (6)

23 Unpalatable choice (7)

25 Disembowels; courage (4)

26 Printed card, receipt (6)

**DOWN**

2 At which one aims (6)

3 Touched; unnatural (8)

4 Heavenly messenger (5)

6 Supplant (4)

7 Covertive, work out (6)

8 Cause; sanity (6)

13 Conventional (painter); good at learning (child) (8)

14 Covered shopping passage (6)

16 On stage; temporary (office, rank) (6)

17 Assistant clergyman (6)

19 Assign (shares) (5)

21 Attack (2,2); an animal (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1262**

**ACROSS:** 1 Ceditate 5 Smug 8 Bismarck 9 Area 11 Along 12 Leddon 13 Exhort 15 Access 18 Plateau 19 Rocky 21 Wake 22 In camera 23 Rink 24 Knee-jerk

**DOWN:** 1 Cabbage 2 Lasso 3 Bear-garden 4 Tackle 6 Miracle 7 Grain 10 Exacerbate 14 Hearn 16 Skylark 17 Turn in 18 Power 20 Crew

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## Referees to send themselves off

David Maddock reports on a strike threat by Spain's much-criticised men in black

It is becoming common within football for players to call a strike as a protest about pay and conditions, but referees? Never. In Spain, however, the men in black are preparing to blow the whistle on this weekend's programme.

The men everyone in football loves to hate are striking, not about their fee of £500 a match, but because they have taken to heart the constant criticism that they naturally arouse.

It all began with an official complaint by Miguel Ros, the president of Valencia, who sent videos to the Spanish Football Federation in support of claims that referees are biased against his team.

It has grown out of all proportion, because in Spain there are rather exaggerated

regional differences, particularly between Basques, Catalans and Madrilenos, and this has led to claims of regional bias. There is intense suspicion every time a northern referee officiates for a southern team — and vice versa.

It finally came to a head last Saturday when Barcelona were victorious in their criticism of Alfonso Perez Burrull, who officiated in their match with Oviedo. They had a point. Fernando Couto was blatantly pushed to the ground by an Oviedo forward, and when he picked the ball up for the anticipated free kick he was dismissed for deliberate handball.

All hell broke loose, but now the referees are calling foul. They have refused to officiate for this weekend's programme. They have even called Vicentiano Arminio, the president of the referees' association, a traitor because he has attempted to broker a solution. Angel Villar, the president of the Spanish Football Federation, has returned to Madrid early from a Uefa meeting in Brussels in an attempt to avoid the calamity of a lost programme, which would cost more than £5 million in lost revenue.

TVE, the state broadcasting company, which covers the Spanish league, is desperate

for a solution and it appears it will get its way. Even if the referees stay true to form and refuse to change their minds, the matches will go ahead with amateurs from regional leagues taking their place.

Predictably, the critical coaches who aroused the referees' passion in the first place have not been sympathetic. Many have said that the amateurs will do a better job, and Louis van Gaal, the Barcelona coach, went one step further.

He has been an outspoken critic of referees and his comments yesterday raised the spectre of another strike. "The referees have not considered what they have been saying about the players, and especially the coaches," he said. "Maybe we can go on strike in protest."

**Tomorrow in The Times**

James Small: larger than life

Danny Baker on the dream team with a difference

Pop meets football: Carlin Moran reports

Plus: Simon Barnes on Peter O'Sullivan's farewell

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